

THE JOURNAL

Friday, August 12, 2005

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Sports Marina is home to one of the largest sailing schools in the U.S. [C1]

Arts & Leisure Water is the secret to local sand sculptor's success [C10]

Supervisors bless backyard amphitheater

■ Approval of county ordinance will allow retired concert promoter to hold up to three events per year at his home in Kensington

By Alan Lopez

STAFF WRITER
The Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors voted 4-1 this week to support a county ordinance that would allow retired

concert promoter Danny Scher to legally hold up to three events a year in his backyard amphitheater on Coventry Road in Kensington.

Because the board made several modifications to the ordinance, it will go to the county planning commission in September for a new recommendation and then back to the board for a final vote, as required by state law.

"I do think this is legalizing a

commercial use in a residential area," said Supervisor Gayle Ulkema of Lafayette, who voted against the ordinance Tuesday. "I can't support that, and I'll never support that. I would be run out of town in my district."

Ulkema was the only sympathetic ear to about a dozen Kensington residents who have complained about periodic fund-raising events held in the 250-seat backyard amphitheater at Scher's home.

With the events necessitating the delivery of such items as portable toilets and catering, residents said they bring down property values and are disruptive for the days leading up to and after the events.

Residents in support of the ordinance were also present, saying Scher has provided a needed venue for fund-raising events in the area while minimizing neighborhood disruption.

Former San Jose Deputy City

Manager Connie Martinez said Scher held a benefit for her after doctors told her she had cancer.

Jim Hogan, the director of the California Youth Symphony, told the board that Scher invited his group to hold a benefit in his backyard and was shocked when he learned the county had fined Scher for hosting it.

Scher told the board the county should legally allow him to hold his events as long as it's not a public nuisance.

"This law protects me as it does my neighbors," he said.

Scher has appealed \$800 in fines the county has levied for three concerts he held last year.

If approved by the Board of Supervisors, the recommended law would allow Scher to annually hold two events with no more than 200 people and one event with no more than 300 people.

See ORDINANCE, Page A10

City looks for ways to improve pathway

■ The goal is to make the trail near El Cerrito Plaza wheelchair accessible

By Alan Lopez

STAFF WRITER
EL CERRITO — The city may need to replace a pathway made of recycled glass at El Cerrito Plaza if it can't make the path accessible to people in wheelchairs.

Spanning three blocks between Talbot and Kaino avenues, the pathway is nestled between a quiet creek and a bustling parking lot on the south side of El Cerrito Plaza.

The city installed it in late May as part of a number of improvements intended to help create a connection between the Malone Greenway and the San Francisco Bay Trail.

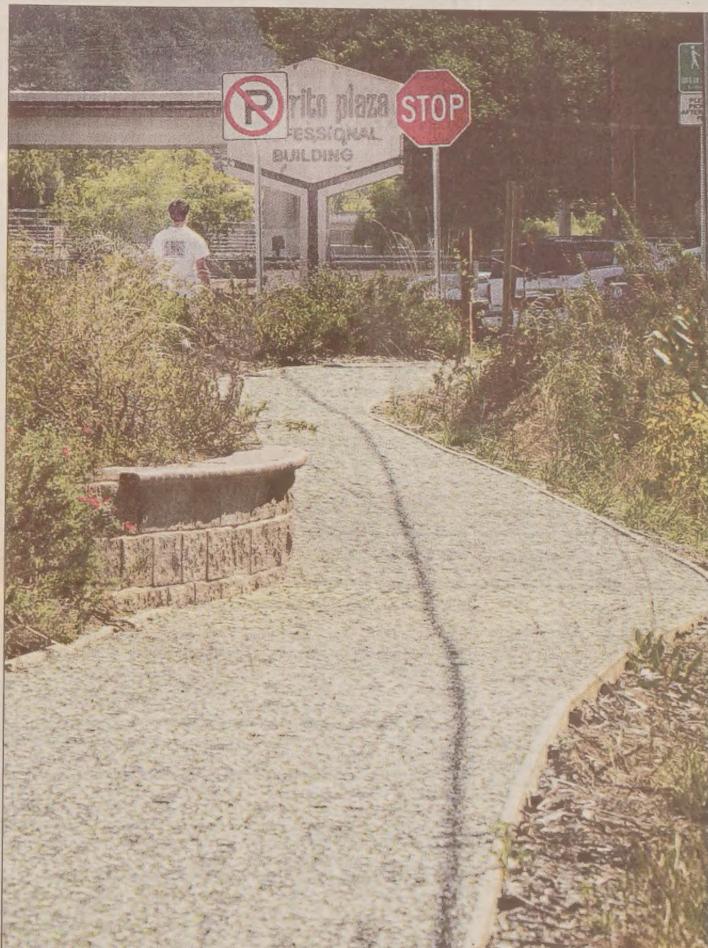
"I hope it works out," said Mayor Pro Tem Janet Abelson, who uses a motorized wheelchair. "But I know for wheelchair users there's some difficulties."

The path is composed of yards of green, brown, amber and clear recycled glass, also called cullet, tumbled to remove the sharp edges. Like gravel, it crunches beneath the feet of a person walking over it but also sparkles in the sunlight.

Susan Schwartz, the coordinator for the Friends of Five Creeks, said the path was primarily her idea. She said the city was looking for a material that could allow water to seep into the dirt, to avoid excess run-off to Cerrito Creek.

In addition, said Chris Kent, landscape architect who helped design the project, recycled glass is both cheap and has an interesting look.

See PATHWAY, Page A10



A NEW PATH made of bits of recycled glass was recently installed near Cerrito Creek in El Cerrito, but it might not meet standards of the Americans With Disabilities Act.

MARK DUFRENE/STAFF



JOANNA JHANOA/STAFF

Witness to the wreckage

■ BOB COLBURN from the Class of 1977 stops to watch as the north wing of the El Cerrito High School campus gets demolished Aug. 4.

Cost review stalls approval of contracts

■ West Contra Costa school district paid one consulting firm more than \$310,000 last year

By Shirley Dang

STAFF WRITER

West Contra Costa school board members launched a review of consultant spending after discovering last week that one firm earned more than \$310,000 last year under five agreements.

In one instance, the district paid Michael O'Neill of the Bridgeworks Group nearly \$15,000 for four days of work.

Board member Karen Pfeifer said

she did not question O'Neill's credentials, but his price tag.

"Had I had been asked to pay for four days of service to the tune of \$15,000, I wouldn't have voted yes," Pfeifer said. "I think it's exorbitant. I don't like it."

The board was slated to approve a number of contracts Aug. 3, including a \$210,000 Bridgeworks agreement to work with six struggling campuses. The three board members present approved the other payments but voted to delay a vote on O'Neill's main contract until more details about the company's work was made clear.

Board members Glen Price and Karen Leong Fenton were absent.

O'Neill was traveling and could not comment.

The revelation of high consultant pay, long a sore spot with parents and the teachers union, has prompted board members to question how the district establishes contracts.

According to district policy, the five-member body is only required to approve agreements \$63,000 and higher, said Associate Superintendent Vince Kilmartin. On Aug. 3, the board was asked to authorize several payments for services already provided, many of them increases to previously authorized contracts.

See CONTRACT, Page A10

By Alan Lopez

STAFF WRITER
The Albany school district will ask voters this November to approve a parcel tax that would charge homeowners \$250 per home annually and commercial property owners 5 cents per square foot of space, or \$250 per parcel, whichever is higher.

The tax, which would exempt seniors and both low-income homeowners and renters, would end after seven years.

The school board voted 4-1 on Tuesday to move forward with the measure, which, if approved by two-thirds of voters, will raise about \$2 million per year for the district. Board member David Farrell dissented.

See TAX, Page A10

INSIDE

■ School board considers whether to overturn cell phone antenna contracts. Page A10



Martin Snapp

■ On the 60th anniversary of V-J Day, Martin discusses how World War II should be taught. Page A3

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NEWS BRIEFS

Albany

City Council cancels Monday meeting

The City Council will next meet on Tuesday, Sept. 6. Its Monday meeting has been canceled. For more information, call 510-528-5710.

Applications still accepted for commissions

The city is still accepting applications for positions on the new economic and social justice commission. For more information on the commission and to download the application, visit albanyca.org or call the city clerk at 510-528-5710.

El Cerrito

Democratic club to meet Tuesday

The El Cerrito Democratic Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in Makem Hall at the Northminster Presbyterian Church, 545 Ashbury Ave. The group will consider the November propositions after a short business meeting. For more information, call 510-527-2194.

Banners planned for Fairmount Avenue

The city is planning to install an array of banners on street light poles on Fairmount Avenue in early September. The banners include large decorative drawings of flowers and trees, with the El Cerrito logo. They also say "Fairmount Ave." and invite residents to "Shop! Eat!" and "Play!"

To allow the banners, the city is adding a new exception to its prohibited sign ordinance. The City Council, at its July 18 meeting, approved a first reading of the new ordinance language, which says the city can install banners for "city sponsored activities or promotions."

The council is expected to approve a second reading at its Monday meeting. The ordinance would go into effect 30 days thereafter.

Grant money sought for Ohlone Greenway

The city is co-sponsoring two grant applications for a total of \$1.4 million in grant money intended to increase safety on the Ohlone Greenway and thereby BART usage.

One application — dubbed the El Cerrito-Albany Ohlone Greenway Safety program — is for \$1.1 million. The other grant application — called the El Cerrito-Del Norte BART station electronic bicycle locker and personal safety project — is for \$382,500.

The city submitted the two "Safe Route to Transit" grant applications to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and the Transportation and Land Use Coalition the week of July 25.

The Safe Routes to Transit program is funded by the recent \$1 bridge toll increases, which went into effect after voters approved Regional Measure 2.

The grant money would help pay for a variety of safety measures and amenities on the Ohlone Greenway in El Cerrito and Albany.

They include electronic bike lockers at the Del Norte BART station; wireless surveillance cameras in El Cerrito; 17 solar-powered emergency call boxes; new lighting along the entire span in Albany and between Blake and Hill streets in El Cerrito; new signs; intersection realignment at two intersections in Albany; and a median island at Moeser Lane.

Draft of telecom law to be released

A draft telecommunications law regulating where cell phone antennas can be erected in the city will be available Aug. 26 at City Hall or on the city's Web site, el-cerrito.org.

The ordinance is part of an overhaul of the city's zoning code the City Council may approve this December, following review by the planning commission. The city has released 42 pages of the document and will release more in the coming weeks.

City Hall is located at 10890 San Pablo Ave. For more information, call 510-215-4330.

Misc.

Residents can recycle tires for free

West County residents can recycle up to four tires for free from noon to 2 p.m. Saturday at the Household Hazardous Waste facility at 101 Pittsburg Ave. in Richmond. Only passenger or light truck tires — 18 inches or less — will be accepted. No rims. The West County Integrated Waste Management Authority is sponsoring the event, which is funded by a grant from the California Integrated Waste Management Board. For more information, go online at cyclemore.com or call 510-215-3021.

— Alan Lopez

CORRECTIONS

A story in last week's Journal incorrectly described a proposal by Albany Vice Mayor Allan Maris for changing the way items are placed on the City Council agenda. Maris proposed that at a prior meeting, a council member would announce his or her wish to place an item on an upcoming agenda and then submit a written report at the next meeting. If a council member did not think the agenda item was properly prepared, a motion could be made to continue it to a future meeting. Currently, any council member can bring an item to the dais for discussion or a vote, as long as it is placed on the agenda six days in advance.

A June 24 story in the Journal on a privately funded poll about the Albany waterfront misquoted Vice Mayor Allan Maris. Maris said: "As far as the survey goes, it's full of holes, but most polls have a few holes."

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Celebrate anniversary of V-J Day with a hero

NEXT MONDAY is the 60th anniversary of V-J Day, the end of World War II.

It's our last chance to thank the men and women who saved the world, because 10 years from now, when we celebrate the 70th, most won't be here anymore.

All wars are touted as a contest between good and evil, but very few actually are. World War II was one.

Hitler was pure, unmitigated evil. And he was defeated by ordinary people who found themselves acting more nobly than they ever imagined they could.

It's the epic story of a generation of heroes.

But that's not the way it's being taught to our children. Instead, they're studying broad historical trends. Here's what the State of California History-Social Science Standards expects 11th graders to learn:

1. Examine the origins of American involvement in the war.

2. Explain U.S. and Allied wartime strategy.

3. Discuss the constitutional issues and impacts on the U.S. home front.

4. Identify the unique contributions of the Tuskegee Airmen, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and Navajo Code Talkers.

5. Analyze Roosevelt's foreign policy.

6. Describe the war's impact on U.S. industry.

7. Discuss the decision to drop the atomic bomb and its consequences.

All very important stuff, I'm sure, but it's awfully prosaic. Where's the poetry? Where's the ringing Churchillian rhetoric? ("We shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills, we shall never surrender!")

Or as the equally eloquent but more laconic Gen. Anthony McAuliffe, commander of the besieged U.S. 82nd Airborne at Bastogne during the Battle of the Bulge, replied to the German commander who was pressing him to surrender: "Nuts."

Where is the gallantry of Adm. Marc Mitscher, who turned on all the lights in the fleet at night during the Battle of the Philippines, risking ex-



MARTIN SNAPP
Snapp Shots

posing the fleet to enemy submarines, so his struggling aviators could find their way back in the dark? Or the black humor of the Marines on Guam, who distributed fake movie handbills that read, "Tonight! Don't miss the thrilling spectacle of the banzai charge, starting at 10 p.m. and lasting all night! Thrills! Chills! Suspense! See everybody shoot everybody! Sponsored by the Athletic and Morale Office. Admission free."

Or the Rosie the Riveters, who always made sure that every rivet on every ship was perfect because, as one explained to me, "This could be the ship that brings my Johnny home to me?" Where are Kilroy, the Sad Sack, and Willie and Joe? Where are Edward R. Murrow and Robert Capa? Where are the pinups of Betty Grable and Rita Hayworth?

Where are the songs of love on the fly and bittersweet partings, like "I'll Be Seeing You," "We'll Meet Again," and "A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square"?

I'm not saying we should romanticize the war. There's no such thing as a "good war" — certainly not one that claimed 50 million to 100 million lives. But I am saying that those who lived through it are heroes.

They knew they were the only ones standing between Hitler and world domination. And unlike us, they didn't have the luxury of knowing how it would turn out. They had to live each day with the fear that they might lose, with consequences too horrible to contemplate.

So, like the humble Hobbits in "The Lord of the Rings" (which, not coincidentally, was written shortly after the war), they roused themselves, marched off, and destroyed the Dark Lord of Mordor. Dashed.

Bless 'em all.

Reach Martin Snapp at 510-262-2787 or e-mail: msnapp@cctimes.com.

PET OF THE WEEK

BERKELEY — The following animals may be available for adoption at the Berkeley-East Bay Humane Society.

Dogs: 10-month-old female Aussie mix blue merle; 2-year-old male Chihuahua mix tan; 10-month-old male pit bull/Lab mix tan; 6-month-old male shepherd mix white & brown; 10-month-old male terrier mix gray; 3-year-old female border collie/dachshund mix black and tan; 5-year-old male collie/shepherd mix fawn.

Cats: 2-year-old male DSH black; 1-year-old female DSH gray; 1-year-old male DMH gray and white; 5-year-old female DSH tortoiseshell; 1-year-old female DSH tortoiseshell; 5-year-old female DMH white; 4-year-old female DLH tortoiseshell; 3-year-old female DSH gray tabby; 8-year-old female DSH Torbie; 4-year-old female DSH dilute tortoiseshell; 8-year-old female DLH/Maine Coon tuxedo; 3-year-old DLH/Maine Coon black tabby; kittens of various ages, sizes and colors.

(DLH: Domestic long hair; DMH: domestic medium hair; DSH: domestic short hair).

Adoption fee: dogs \$125; cats \$100; rabbits \$40 — including spaying/neutering and age-appropriate shots. There is an overnight hold period. The Berkeley-East Bay Humane Society is located at 2700 Ninth



BERKELEY-EAST BAY HUMANE SOCIETY

TREY is a 6- to 8-month-old sable and white male Shepherd/Lab mix, and may be available for adoption at the Berkeley-East Bay Humane Society. He loves romping around, and is learning the game of fetch. He is working on some basic commands, and would benefit from attending obedience class. For more information about Trey or other animals available for adoption, call or visit the Berkeley-East Bay Humane Society.

St. Berkeley. Its hours are 12 p.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. Information: www.berkeleyhumane.org or call 510-845-7735.

FACES & PLACES

Architects lauded for restoration

Albany architectural firm Jerri Holan & Associates, AIA, has been honored by the California Preservation Foundation for its restoration of the Rockridge Masonic Lodge, which was built in 1926 and is an example of a classic Renaissance palazzo. Holan & Associates restored the temple's neglected facade and improved accessibility to satisfy building code requirements.

Each year, the California Preservation Foundation recognizes outstanding preservation projects throughout the state. It gave out 26 awards this year. The winning projects were selected for serving as models for other projects as well as for their historical and statewide significance.

— Craig Lazzaretti

El Cerrito's Kevin Alan Sommers, a sophomore majoring in pre-business administration at the University of Oregon, was named to the dean's list for the spring semester.

— Craig Lazzaretti

John Backus-Mayes of El Cerrito was named one of 42 students at Williams College, in Williamstown, Mass., named as associate members of Sigma Xi, the international scientific research society. Backus-Mayes is a physics major.

— Chris Treadaway

Award-winning pianist and Albany High School student Ju-

Neighbors



JERRI HOLAN & ASSOCIATES restored the facade of the Rockridge Masonic Lodge and improved accessibility to satisfy building code requirements.

liann Ma will perform a free recital at 4 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 28, at the Church on the Corner, 1319 Solano Ave. For more information, call 510-526-6632.

— Alan Lopez

The El Cerrito recreation department will hold its ninth annual dynamo golf scramble fundraiser Aug. 22 at the Mira Vista Golf and Country Club, 7900 Cutting Blvd.

The cost per player is \$135. It includes coffee and pastries, a

dynamo T-shirt and goodie bag, and lunch after the tournament. All levels of play are welcome. The shotgun format is open to any caliber golfer. Everyone hits, and the best ball is played.

The event raises money for scholarships for the city's recreation and child care programs. Last year's tournament raised more than \$10,000. Register by Aug. 19 at the recreation department, 7007 Moeser Lane, or call 510-559-7000.

— Alan Lopez

Have an item about a scholarship, an award, an event or other experience that you'd like to share with other Journal readers? If you have a photo, print or digital, we can use those, too (sorry, we cannot return print photos). Send it to the editor, by e-mailing: journals@cttimes.com, or mailing to: Neighbors, The Journal, 4301 Lakeside Dr., Richmond, CA 94806.

Along the way the group will look for animal tracks and other evidence of nature in action. Participants should bring water, lunch and comfortable hiking shoes. Because of the distance and level of exertion, the hike is for ages 10 and up. Meet at the Bort Meadow's meeting area on Redwood Road, five miles south of Skyline Boulevard in Oakland.

The hike is free of charge, but registration is required. To register or obtain more information, phone 510-521-6887. The Trails Challenge hike or Aug. 21 will be from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Point Pinole Regional Shoreline on Giant Highway in Richmond. Naturalist Dave Zuckerman will lead the group on a flat, easy walk to explore the park's natural and cultural history. Point Pinole was once the locale for dynamite manufacturing.

Again, bring lunch and water, and wear sturdy hiking shoes. The hike is free of charge and reservations are not necessary. Point Pinole charges a parking fee of \$5 per vehicle. For more information, phone 510-525-2233.

Ned MacKay writes this column about East Bay Regional Park District sites and activities. E-mail him at nedmackay@comcast.net.

Hot summer days can be a threat to your pets

IN CASE YOU hadn't noticed, we are now experiencing the hot and uncomfortable dog days of summer, so called because Sirius, the Dog Star in the constellation Canis Major, rises and sets with the sun in July and August.

And the dog days, or any other extremely hot weather, can present a real threat to our faithful pet companions. To understand why, you only need imagine what you would feel like if you were walking and running around in this weather wearing a full-length fur coat.

Dogs and cats sweat only through their paw pads. They don't have sweat glands in their skin or under their arms as humans do. So dogs cool themselves off mainly by panting. For an active dog on a hot day, this may not be enough to prevent heatstroke. And heatstroke is an extremely serious condition, both for dogs and people.

So when you take your dog out for a hike, you should be aware of the dog's needs and watchful of its condition. This is especially true for short-nosed breeds like bulldogs, dark-coated breeds like Rottweilers, and heavy-coated breeds like Bernese Mountain dogs.

Denise Blackman, co-chair of the East Bay Regional Park District's Companion Dog Pa-



NED MACKAY
Park It

trol, provides these tips for a pleasant hot-weather experience with your pet:

■ Avoid the heat of the day by hiking with your dog in the early morning or evening. Don't take long daytime runs or bike rides with your dog running alongside.

■ Bring along lots of extra water for your dog, and a container from which it can drink. A large, heavy-duty plastic food bag works well.

■ Allow your dog to rest regularly in cool and shady areas, and offer small amounts of water when the dog shows signs of overheating. Signs include rapid breathing, heavy panting, running from shade to shade, muscle tremors and staggering.

■ Putting a wet cloth on a dog's belly can help cool it off. Water poured on the dog's head will just run off without getting to the skin.

■ Serious overheating is an emergency, and the dog should be examined by a veterinarian.

■ Keep your dog on leash unless he or she follows your commands well enough to re-

turn to you the first time you call. Good trail manners include making sure your dog does not approach any other person or animal without an invitation.

SCENE ON THE STRAIT:

Plein-air painting enthusiasts take note — Martinez Regional Shoreline in Martinez will host the 10th annual Scene on the Strait Art Festival from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, sponsored by the Carquinez Regional Environmental Education Center, with proceeds benefiting habitat and restoration efforts along the Carquinez Strait.

Hundreds of paintings from 25 Bay Area artists will be for sale. Other attractions include a food concession, a contemporary jazz performance, a Monarch butterfly display and a native plant sale. Admission is free. For more information, phone 510-787-9772.

TRAILS CHALLENGE: If you are working on your 2005 Trails Challenge hikes, or even if you're not, East Bay Regional Park District naturalists are helping out by leading two of the challenge hikes this month — one Sunday and one on Aug.

21. Sunday, naturalist Bethany Facendini will lead one of the more strenuous Trail Challenge hikes from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. It's an eight-mile trek through Anthony Chabot Regional Park north of Castro Valley.

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THE JOURNAL*... were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter.*

— Thomas Jefferson, 1787

EDITORIAL**End security quarrel**

IN EFFORTS TO PREVENT terrorist attacks or respond to them, it is essential that public officials cooperate to the fullest. Law enforcement, emergency services, health care and transit personnel need to be kept up to date on each others' plans to deal with terrorism.

Unfortunately, a rift between BART police and Alameda County Sheriff Charles Plummer has erupted. It must be settled if the 150,000-plus people who ride BART every weekday are to be reassured that everything possible is being done to protect their safety.

Plummer is particularly upset that BART has not shared emergency protocols and has not sent its top police official, Gary Gee, to regional strategy meetings. The sheriff is at a point. BART should cooperate fully with Plummer, who is responsible for mutual aid plans for 16 counties from Monterey to the Oregon border.

However, Plummer did not ask BART for its plans until recently, as a response to the subway bombings in London. ART needs to meet Plummer's request as quickly as possible and keep closely in touch with the Alameda County sheriff in the future.

It is also critical that either Gee or another high-ranking representative attend regional strategy meetings.

BART serves four counties with many sheriffs' and police departments, not to mention medical emergency organizations and other transit operations. Coordinating efforts to prevent or respond to terrorism requires constant communication among all involved. Even if each organization has a good plan to deal with terrorism and other emergencies, it is not enough. A terrorist attack, earthquake or other disaster affect many agencies; they need to work together.

Gee said BART has an excellent emergency response plan and that it has always participated in regional drills. However, that is not enough if there is mistrust between ART and the person responsible for coordinating a regional response to emergencies.

Instead of exchanging sharp words at a distance, Plummer and Gee must work out a better means of communicating and cooperating. Certainly, they have the same goals and need to do a better job of working together in a manner that best serves the public.

Keep Iceland open

THE NEWS LAST WEEK that venerable Berkeley ice skating rink Iceland may be forced to close because of a dangerous substance in its ice-making machine caught the attention of generations of skating enthusiasts throughout the East Bay. Many ice skating rinks have come and gone over the years, but Iceland has become something of an institution, with an influence stretching well beyond Berkeley's city limits. For decades, children from throughout the East Bay have flocked to Iceland to learn how to skate and play hockey, as well as simply have a good time. As the number of rinks has dwindled over the years, Iceland's significance — and charm — has only grown.

The city of Berkeley has ordered Iceland to remove anhydrous ammonia from its refrigeration unit by Aug. 22. The city has an obligation to put safety first and to make certain that all businesses operate in a responsible fashion. But we also hope the city appreciates the valuable role Iceland has long played in the community, and makes every effort to help the rink comply with its demands in a reasonable way.

Iceland's management has raised objections to the city's assertions regarding the safety threat of the ammonia, as well as the deadline for complying with the order. We hope the city looks at these concerns closely before making any decisions regarding the future of the rink. For 65 years, Iceland has provided treasured memories for its patrons, and we want to see that tradition continue.

YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS**House of Representatives**

510-559-1406. Fax: 510-559-1478

County Supervisors

John Gioia: (1st District) 11780 San Pablo Ave., Suite D, El Cerrito, CA 94530, 510-374-3231. Fax: 510-374-3429. E-mail: dist1@bos.co.contra Costa.ca.us.

Keith Carson: (5th District) 1221 Oak St., Ste. 536, Oakland, CA 94612, 510-272-6695. Fax: 510-271-5151. E-mail: kcarson@co.alameda.ca.us.

EBMUD

David Richardson: Ward No. 4 (Albany, Berkeley, and Emeryville; part of Oakland, El Cerrito and Kensington). E-mail: oakport@igc.org

East Bay Regional Parks

Jean Sir: Ward 1 (Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, El Cerrito, El Sobrante, Kensington, part of Pinole, and San Pablo). E-mail: jsir@ebparks.org

AC Transit

Joe Wallace: Ward 1 (West Contra Costa and Northern Alameda counties). E-mail: jwallace@ctransit.org; phone 510-891-7143; fax 510-234-7689.

Steg Sanitary District

Phone 510-524-4668 or see online at www.stegesd.dst.ca.us.

School boardsWest Contra Costa Unified School District: 510-620-2246
Albany Unified School District: 510-558-3766**State Senate**

Don Perata: (D-9th District: Albany, Berkeley) State Capitol, Room 4061, Sacramento, CA 95814, 916-445-3577. Fax: 916-327-1997; 1515 Clay St., No. 2202, Oakland, CA 94612, 510-286-1333. Fax: 510-286-3885. E-mail: senator.perata@sen.ca.gov.

Tom Torlakson: (D-7th District: El Cerrito, Kensington) 2801 Concord Blvd., Concord CA 94519; 800-859-3900 or State Capitol, Room 2068, Sacramento CA 95814; 916-445-8083. E-mail: senator.torlakson@sen.ca.gov

Assembly

Loni Hancock: (D-14th District: Albany, Berkeley, El Cerrito, El Sobrante, Emeryville, Kensington, North and West Oakland) State Capitol, P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249, 916-319-2014. Fax: 916-319-2114; 712 El Cerrito Plaza, El Cerrito, CA 94550.

JEFF HANSEN • HILLS NEWSPAPERS

DISNEYLAND CELEBRATES ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY**...and Mickey's voice would have deepened and he would have developed facial hair.**

You'd think after 50 years, Tinkerbell would have at least one wrinkle.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR****Plan is meant to restore credibility**

The "Policy and Procedures for Placing Items on the Albany City Council Agenda," which I have proposed, is intended to improve the quality of agenda items.

It is not intended to limit council members' ability to raise items for discussion or a vote, as inappropriately and misinterpreted by Alan Lopez in his articles of Aug. 5 in the Journal and Aug. 8 in the Times. He should have confirmed the intent of the policy with me or with Beth Pollard, Albany city administrator, before publishing inaccurate information in our community.

The disrespect and bullying Councilman Robert Lieber has demonstrated in his first six months on the council, by placing flawed and poorly prepared items on the agenda at the last minute, does not serve our representative democracy well. Decisions made in the democratic process work best when representatives of the people are provided with unbiased, honest, relevant and complete information in a timely manner. My proposed policy is intended to do that.

The Lieber/Parker "Albany Waterfront Poll" is an example of a presentation of information to the council that does not serve the democratic process well, as clearly stated in the Journal editorial of July 1.

The press plays a vital role in our democracy and a helpful one when it presents the truth so that sound decisions can be made by citizens and their representatives. Truth takes some thoughtful work. One must listen carefully and be able to make sound judgments.

Steve Pinto's letter to the Journal and Times during this same time frame are also inappropriate and inaccurate. I have not proposed to Albany city staff members that a second council member must approve an item before it can be placed on the agenda. This was alleged in an e-mail sent by Lieber to himself and distributed to residents of Albany on July 17. Pinto should not be speaking for me at all, especially without confirming his statements with me and our city administrator.

Albany staff members offered several options to place effective items on an agenda. Approval by a second council member was one of many options offered, which are in common practice in our state and federal legislatures and other democratic governing bodies.

I only wish to adopt a policy which returns credibility to the agenda of the Albany City Council.

Vice Mayor Allan Maris

Albany

Too expensive

NASA shouldn't go to the moon or Mars. At more than \$1 billion a launch, the space shuttle, once touted as an economical way to go into space, has become the most expensive means of transportation ever devised by man.

The engineering competence of the 1970s has been replaced with a new level of incompetence. We can't do now what we did then.

The science of the manned space program doesn't cut it, and we can take little pride in launching high school science projects in space.

Meanwhile, the unmanned space program is being gutted while its crown

jewel, the Hubble Space Telescope, is resigned to an ignoble fate.

The American people have lost their nerve. They're tired of blowing up school teachers and demand a space program flying under OSHA rules.

Without good engineering, good science and a true spirit of adventure, why bother? Let's leave manned space exploration to the private sector, where the true spirit of adventure still thrives.

Richard Firestone
El Cerrito**A dilemma**

Some have complained that Muslims don't condemn terrorism. Yet, when a recent fatwa and condemnation was proclaimed, some are dissatisfied.

It appears the old saying, "You're damned if you do and you're damned if you don't," is at work.

For years, we heard complaints that Muslims didn't condemn terrorism, despite the repeated condemnations of all major national organizations. Others complained that there should be a fatwa against terrorism.

Well, finally we have a fatwa, and now new complaints kick in. It seems that no matter what Muslims do, they are always in the wrong.

It is apparent that for some people, to quote part of a proverb that used to apply to another villainized group, "There's no good Muslim."

Kamal Siddiqui
El Cerrito**We, too, are suffering**

A recent national headline read, "All quiet on the homefront, and some soldiers are asking why." It was another deceptive article — all is not quiet on the homefront.

The article said: "The Bush administration's rallying call that America is a nation at war is increasingly ringing hollow to men and women in uniform, who grow in frustration that America is not a nation at war, but a nation with only its military at war."

Contrary to the article, we in the United States are suffering as a result of the war, as more necessities are being cut to fund the Iraq fiasco.

We do not have adequate health care, housing, parks, and financial support for public schools, public sports and various other entertainment. We have increasingly less material evidence that we work in order to give us all pleasant lives.

Also, our civil liberties are being withheld.

drawn with logarithmically increasing frequency. Every element that has given people here in the United States any comfort is being attacked and cut.

I walk for exercise in an area not originally intended for walking. I let my dog come, too. It's delightful in many ways. I keep looking over my shoulder for the bulldozers which will scrape the area bare, prohibit my access, and either leave it barren for years or build a for-profit or a fee entry facility on it.

Our possibility, as well as the actuality, of having any security, any service, any pleasure is being eliminated at every turn.

And, of course, deceived people are enlisting in the military to obtain the benefits the lying recruitment process is telling them they can have — which they never get, or that are taxed away from them.

Norma J. F. Harrison
Berkeley**Californians fed up**

Hey Schwarzenegger, listen up: We may not have your bottomless bags of money, but Democratic grassroots activists have been getting the job done since long before you ever came to California.

Schwarzenegger can hold phony town hall meetings and play up to the cameras all he wants. Meanwhile, the people of California — not just Democrats, but anyone concerned with the mess he has made in California — are out getting voters registered and educating them on just what his real agenda is.

Schwarzenegger broke his campaign promises, especially on education, and now he calls this expensive and unnecessary special election that will cut into services we desperately need.

He just doesn't get it, because none of this will affect him, his family or his extravagant standard of living. But average working-class citizens, who are tired of the Republican Party pushing their extreme right-wing agenda on our state and our country, do get it.

Schwarzenegger claims to be "the people's governor," but he won't listen to the people. On Nov. 8 he will hear what we have to say.

Bernadette Green
El Sobrante**Arrogance and lies**

I would like to refer you to a post from Elizabeth Warren at Huffington.com (Armenia Huffington's site). "No bad deed goes unrewarded in this administration."

The appointment of Amerique's owner and CEO Roland Arnall to the post of ambassador to the Netherlands is just another Bush appointment of a crook. Amerique has recently set aside \$325 million in anticipation of a flood of lawsuits from defrauded customers. However, billionaire Arnall has contributed at least \$600,000 to Bush causes.

The list of Bush's bad "friends" is endless: Dick Cheney, the Haliburton hierarchy, Ken Lay, Karl Rove, Tom DeLay, etc.

And the John Bolton recess appointment is wrong. Same old Republican MO and arrogance — deny and lie!

I know it's being portrayed as only Democrats who are against this appointment, but there are Republicans who are justly against this, too. Where are they now?

We all have to stand up and tell BushCo this is wrong.

Christina Slamon
Richmond**WRITE TO THE JOURNAL**

Letters to the editor and guest commentaries reflect the opinion of the writer and must include the author's first and last name, address and daytime phone number. All letters are subject to verification. Maximum op-ed length is 600 words.

Letters are subject to editing for brevity, grammar and style. Not all letters may be published.

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Please write JOURNAL LETTERS on the envelope, at the top of the fax or in the subject field of the message.

Taking the writer's history into account

Quote of the week

"Canaries embroidered the night.
Three babies arrived laughing.
In my mother's house, a safe
hearts 100 gold rings."
— "In the Tunnel of Falling Birds," by Elizabeth Rosner



JULIE WINKELSTEIN
At the Library

SOMETIMES a question comes up that is so appealing it makes me want to engage in long conversations with everyone I know as I try to figure out how I feel about it. This happened at a recent poetry reading at our library, when the featured poet — Elizabeth Rosner — asked whether we wanted to know the history of a poem. Is it relevant? She asked us. Is it important to Frost's "The Pasture."

And there was a kind of reverence for this man in our house — for the far reach of his work and the wisdom of his words. But there are numerous accounts about Frost's personal life that could easily taint his work. Should they? Should we allow our opinion of someone's private life and perhaps abhorrent behavior to color our view of the work? Is it relevant?

The class discussion was not

I would emphatically say no, even though I know there are times I am affected by some anecdote about a public figure and it changes my opinion of them. I can see why it would be difficult to separate an artist's actions from his or her work, but I still don't believe it's appropriate.

The same holds true for the story behind a work of art — a poem, for instance. As one of my daughters commented, if you need to know the reasons the poem was written, then the writer isn't doing her job. My daughter's recommendation was to read the poem, hear the background, and then read the poem again. That makes sense to me — as long as the second reading doesn't eradicate the feelings from the first one.

And perhaps the background and the second reading would give us insight not only into the author's intent but also even a glimpse into the way another reader may experience the work. We may end up with multiple meanings, and I think this would be a good thing. A good piece of writing holds

many possibilities — that is what gives it depth and longevity.

Even having some knowledge of a writer's background can affect how we interpret her work. Rosner's poetry is a good example. Since I know her parents are Holocaust survivors, when she uses the word "gold" in a poem, I immediately remember those too-vivid war images — in particular, gold fillings, gold watches and gold wedding bands. I imagine them in piles, next to abandoned suitcases and strewn clothing. Because of this, it is difficult for me to disregard the impact of Rosner's past — it has colored that word for me.

I think we are all like that. When we read the poet's words, we see not only the dictionary definition, but also the emotions from our own lives. That is the pleasure of a good poem — it speaks to all of us.

Reach librarian Julie Winkelstein at jwinkelstein@aclibr.org or at the Albany Library, 510-526-3720 ext. 17.

LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

The Puppet Company will present "Mae Lin & the Magic Brush" on Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Albany Library. Based loosely on an old Chinese tale, this is the story of a young girl named Mae Lin who is given a magic brush that can make anything she paints come to life. The show features a traditional dragon dance, authentic Chinese provincial music, and lots of surprises.

Randal Metz and the Puppet Company have been creating "Fantasies in Miniature" for more than 30 years. He was trained by such puppeteers as Lewis Mahlmann of Children's Fairyland, Bob Baker of Disneyland and even the Muppets.

This is the final event in a series of free summer Tuesday evenings at the Albany Library. No registration is required, and all ages are welcome. The Albany Library is located at 1247 Marin Ave., and is a branch of the Alameda County Library. Questions? Call Julie Winkelstein at 510-526-3720, ext. 17.

— Craig Lazzaretti

The library will also present a drop-in poetry writing workshop led by Alison Seevak on Sept. 14 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Seevak is an Albany poet and teacher who has taught writing to children and adults at schools and community arts centers throughout the Bay Area.

Both events are in the Edith Stone Room and are free, ongoing and open to all ages. Cookies will be served. Questions? Call Julie Winkelstein at 510-526-3720, ext. 17.

— Craig Lazzaretti

A puppet show celebrating the conclusion of the summer reading program at the Kensington Library will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Aug. 23 at the library, 61 Arlington Ave.

T&T Puppet Theatre will perform. A drawing for a large stuffed dragon puppet will be held after the show. For more information, call 510-524-3043.

— Alan Lopez

A session on strategy tips for the SAT College Entrance Exam by Princeton Review will be held Sept. 26 at 7 p.m. at the Kensington Library. Registration is required and begins Aug. 22. The session is free and open to all ages.

For more information, call the Kensington Library at 510-524-3043.

— Craig Lazzaretti

Library activity items may be e-mailed to journal@cctimes.com

— Craig Lazzaretti

NOT SURE WHAT TO COOK THIS WEEKEND?



Call to subscribe: 1-800-598-4637

ILL CERRITO SCHOOL NOTES

El Cerrito High School

ORIENTATION: Orientation will be Wednesday from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Walk-through registration will be from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Monday for seniors; 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday for juniors; 8:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. Tuesday for sophomores; and 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday for freshmen.

BOOTS: EC's leadership class is encouraging campus clubs and organizations to have information booths for the freshmen orientation on Wednesday. Club representatives would be required to show up one to two hours before the orientation, and will have to set up their own tables. For information contact Brian Mertens, bmerentes07@hotmail.com.

MARCHING BAND CAMP: The Gaucho Marching Band will hold its pre-season camp for all classes next Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. All returning members and incoming freshmen will be refreshed on marching. The band will hand out music and check out instruments Tuesday or Wednesday. Participants will need athletic shoes, comfortable

clothing, sunscreen, and \$10 for food or a bagged lunch.

KRISPY KREME CARDS: The junior class is selling Krispy Kreme Cards for \$10. The cards are buy one dozen, get another free, and are good for the next year. You get up to 10 dozen free! For more information, contact Josephine at missingeria5389@aol.com.

JUNIOR CAR WASH: The junior class will hold a car wash on Aug. 20 at the AC Delco lot, 6801 Fairmount Ave., at the corner of Fairmount and Richmond. Contact Josephine at missingeria5389@aol.com for information.

Portola Middle School

ORIENTATION: The schedule for orientation is as follows: 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday for grades 6 and 7; 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Monday for grade 8; 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday for make-ups. Walk-through registration will be 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. today.

Harding Elementary

ORIENTATION: Kindergarten orientation is Aug. 22 from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.

This is an opportunity for parents and students to meet their new teacher, see where to line up before school, and view the new classrooms. Classroom assignments will be posted outside the front entrance at 7230 Fairmount Ave. on Aug. 22. Kindergarten classrooms are located on the Ashbury Street entrance (at Fairmount).

SCHOOL OPENINGS: The new earthquake-safe school building will have greater capacity than the current campus. A limited number of spaces are still available for the 2005-2006 school year, particularly in grades 1 and 5. If Harding is your resident school, come to the school office on Wednesday to register in person. To inquire about transfers, contact the district office at 510-232-6325. School begins Aug. 23. For more information, visit harding-pla.org.

CORONADO FIRE: A donation account has been set up at the Mechanics Bank to help repair the damage at Coronado Elementary School from a fire on Aug. 1. Two kindergarten classrooms and a speech therapy room were destroyed. Checks may be made payable to: WCCUSD/Coronado.

ado Elementary School Donation Fund Account #139-624465. Donations may be sent to or dropped off at: The Mechanics Bank, 3171 Hilton Mall Road, Richmond CA 94806.

— Craig Lazzaretti

SCHOOLS And PROGRAMS

Raskob Learning Institute



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7pm 7pm 7pm

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Upcoming beginner classes:

- Floating Illusion Necklace
- Sat., Aug. 13, 10am-2pm
- Basic Necklace/Bracelet
- Sat., Aug. 13, 3:00-7:00pm
- Crystal Rosette Necklace
- Sun., Aug. 14, 12:30-4:30pm
- Basic Earrings
- Fri., Aug. 20, 3:00-6:00pm

Upcoming intermediate classes:

- Herringbone Bezel
- Sat., Aug. 20, 10:00am - 2:00pm (see sample online very cool!)
- Wire Wrap Necklace
- Sun., Aug. 27, 10:00am-2:00pm

Fall class signups will begin today. Check www.beadinpirations.com for the new schedule. Get on our email list to be notified of updates. Class fees range from \$35-45 plus materials. Small classes, personal attention; sign up early. Sign up online, by phone at 510-521-2944, or in the store at 1544 Park St., Alameda. See a complete schedule of beading classes online or in the store.

RASKOB LEARNING INSTITUTE

Raskob Learning Institute offers programs for students of all ages with language based learning disabilities. Individualized, multisensory, explicit instruction is used to remediate academic weaknesses, while building on the strengths and talents of each learner. The co-educational Day School currently serves grades 3-9, and is expanding to serve students up through grade 12.

Additional support services are available from on-site speech and language, occupational therapy and psychological professionals. The Clinic program offers private and small group educational therapy. A Diagnostic Testing program will offer full psychoeducational evaluations beginning in fall 2005.

BERKWOOD HEDGE SCHOOL

Berkwood Hedge School is an independent K - 5th grade school in Berkeley.

A deep commitment to a challenging and thoughtful academic program is our top priority. Guided by our developmental philosophy, we see children as competent, articulate, and curious individuals who learn by doing. Our experienced teachers create lessons and activities that challenge and engage a diverse range of students. Curriculum is designed to help students ask questions about society, examine popular culture, and think critically. Social justice and service learning activities are integrated throughout the academic program. Our core curriculum of mathematics, language arts, social studies, and science is supplemented by a vibrant enrichment program including Spanish, visual art, music, drama, and physical education.

At Berkwood Hedge we strive to be a healthy school, modeling environmental awareness and conservation for our families and community. We are located at 1809 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. Please Call for more information (510) 883-6991 or Visit www.berkwood.org

Limited openings available for Fall 2005

Tours for the 2006-2007 school year begin in October

Please call for more information

510 883-6991

www.berkwood.org

BERKWOOD HEDGE SCHOOL

1809 Bancroft Way

Berkeley, CA 94703

SCHOOLS



Community School of the East Bay

Community School of the East Bay offers a unique 7th and 8th grade middle school program. Learning at Community School starts with the students' need to discover their identity and their place in history including today's changing world. Community School is dedicated to providing a challenging academic environment that supports the needs of the whole child and facilitates all aspects of social, emotional, physical, and scholastic growth.

At Community School the arts are an integral part of our students' lives. Our arts program includes visual art, drama, dance, video, and music. Learning at Community School extends beyond the classroom with community service and outdoor education.

We are currently accepting applications for the 2005-2006 school year. There are limited 7th grade openings available for the current year. We welcome you to come and visit our school. Please call for tour schedule and information, 510-923-0505 or visit our website cseb.org.

215 Ridgeway Ave., Oakland, CA 94611

St. Jarlath School

St. Jarlath is a Catholic school located in the Fruitvale-Dimond District of Oakland. We serve a diverse ethnic and religious population in Kindergarten through Eighth grade. We foster and model Christian values and behavior while promoting academic excellence. We dedicate ourselves to the spiritual, academic, physical, and emotional growth of each child.

Our mission is to inspire a lifelong passion for learning. At St. Jarlath School learning is a joyful, active process of discovery. Christian values are woven into our curriculum. Our academic calendar is highlighted with cultural and religious celebrations, our students participate in stewardship projects, and our comprehensive curriculum. Our academic calendar is highlighted with cultural and religious celebrations, our students participate in stewardship projects, and our comprehensive curriculum is enhanced with a Fine Arts program and Spanish language instruction. We have a talented student choir, a vibrant sports program, Student Council, and a Traffic Patrol.

Our students are a measure of our greatness. They are creative, caring, intelligent, motivated, and spiritual young people.

Please call for an individual tour at 510.532.4387. Located off the 580 @ Fruitvale, 2634 Pleasant St., Oakland. Visit our website @ STJARLATH.ORG

Luna Kids Dance

Luna Kids Dance provides high quality dance programs for youth ages 3-17 that combine the love of dance with standards of artistic excellence. Young dancers develop deep understanding of the creative process through active participation, guided discovery and critical reflection. Luna's unique approach to dance education, focused on dance-making, has been recognized nationally by Dance Magazine and Teaching Artist Journal and locally with an Isadora Duncan Dance Award for "exceptional vision in dance education for children."

Luna Kids Dance offers Creative Dance, Modern Dance, Choreography and Teen Improvisation classes. Fall session begins September 19th. FREE Open Houses: Sept. 17th. For more information please call (510) 644-3629 or visit www.lunakidsdance.com

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September 17th, 3 locations
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Redwood Day School promotes academic excellence through a comprehensive program that is developmentally appropriate and supportive of student growth. Students learn from each other and from being engaged by stellar teachers. Students learn best when they are doing. At Redwood Day School, students become scientists, mathematicians, historians, and writers in the classroom. Growth often takes place through project-based learning, in which students acquire knowledge, master skills, applying both to challenging long-term tasks. When children love their education they become life-long learners.

Currently our 290 students come from eleven cities and represent 45% students and families of varying ethnic communities and 55% from European descent families. The application process continues through mid-January when you are able to learn about the school through Open Houses, tours and receptions. For more information, please visit our website at www.rdschool.org or call Jasmine Leonilla Gonzalez at 510.534.0804 ext. 224.

Archway School, an independent K-8 school located between Piedmont Avenue and Broadway in Oakland, offers a unique environment for developing academic and personal growth. We are committed to nurturing children's natural curiosity, valuing social development and community service, and diversity in our curriculum, classrooms and community.

We invite you to an information night.

The Academy

The Academy is an independent, co-educational school for Kindergarten through Eighth grades. The school offers an accelerated academic program in a warm family atmosphere who are well motivated & eager to learn.

While the curriculum is traditional & academic, it offers opportunities for creative experience & expression. It is a philosophy that only upon knowledge can creative potential & self-expression more fully developed.

The Academy offers summer programs of academic Morning academic classes focus on improving students' Math skills as well as helping students gain confidence & ease in areas. Afternoon recreation classes are a variety of drama, ceramics, swimming, science, & Friday field trips! We offer services as well as a morning program for children starting the Fall.

The school is ethnically, culturally, & socio-economically diverse is celebrated in the daily life of the school as students cross the boundaries of age, gender & background.

Please check our web site at theacademyk-8.com. Please for more information & to schedule a tour. Summer programs are now available! (510) 549-0605

Aurora Schools

Aurora School is a leader among Bay Area elementary schools, recognized for its excellence in curriculum, teaching strategy and community involvement. Aurora students are lifelong learners with the strength and skills to succeed in a future full of change and challenge.

We are committed to ethnic, racial, cultural, economic and familial diversity (including gay and lesbian, adopted, single parent families and children with physical disabilities). Diversity offers one of the most powerful ways of creating acceptance and mutual respect in our society. We are a community of learners. Students, parents and teachers work together to create an environment that encourages curiosity, problem solving, creativity, intellectual perseverance, teamwork and play. Our classrooms foster risk taking, individual challenges and cooperative exploration.

Please call Lisa Piccione at 428-2606x204 to schedule a school tour.

Bentley School

Bentley School is a co-educational learning environment, teaching grades K-12 with campuses in both Oakland and Lafayette. Bentley offers students a highly academic curriculum along with the benefits of music, art and foreign language.

Bentley School strives to inspire academic excellence, personal achievement and character by engaging students' intellect and creativity. Our comprehensive curriculum and academic program promotes a life long love and pursuit of learning. Bentley encourages students to explore their individual talents and to engage in critical thinking.

We are a community representing diverse backgrounds and experiences and strive for respectful relationships among students, teachers and parents. Bentley School encourages our students to embrace values that not only enrich themselves but the community and the world as well.

NEXT SCHOOLS AND PROGRAMS PAGE TO PUBLISH SEPTEMBER 9TH.

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Walden Center & School

Walden is an Arts-based progressive, teacher-run elementary school. Our curriculum combines developmentally appropriate experiences and challenging units of study. The school's environment emphasizes the child's academic, emotional, social, creative and physical growth. Parents and educators founded Walden Center & School in 1982 to create a learning environment that treats artistic expression as an essential part of every child's academic experience.

The Walden staff supports experiential learning, cooperation, creativity and appreciation of personal expression within a community. Children and adults at Walden value the racial and economic diversity of the East Bay within the School's and multicultural learning environment.

We invite interested parents to attend our Information Session more about the school, its origins and philosophy.

Walden Center and School is located at 2446 McKinley Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94703. Please call today for more information 7248. We are still accepting applications for Fall '05.

WALDEN CENTER & SCHOOL

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(510) 841-7248
www.walden-school.net

We highly value a diverse community and offer a program as part of our community outreach.

A Co-Founder of the Community School of the East Bay

PROGRAMS

New Age Academy

New Age Academy recognizes the impact that the information age can have on young people. With so many sources inundating them "24/7" it is important for adolescents to learn the critical thinking skills that can help them navigate this ocean of information.

New Age Academy encourages critical thinking through a unique combination of rigorous academics and creative workshops. This program recognizes the social and emotional needs of this age group (11-18 year olds) as well as the intellectual growth so necessary for this stage of life.

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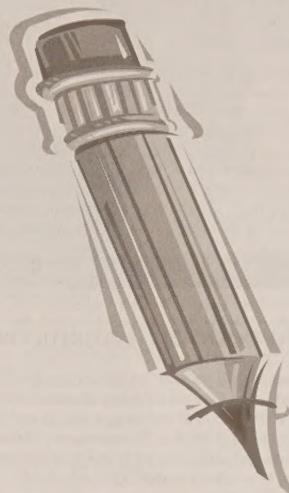
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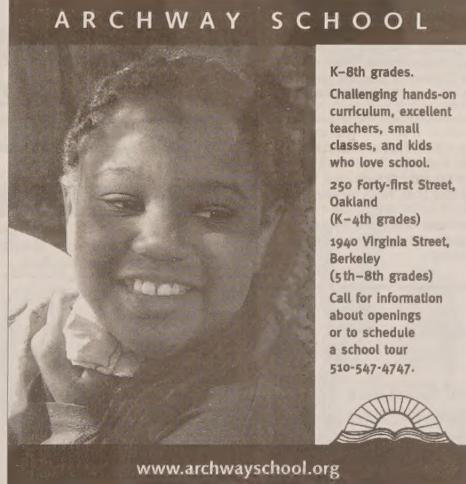
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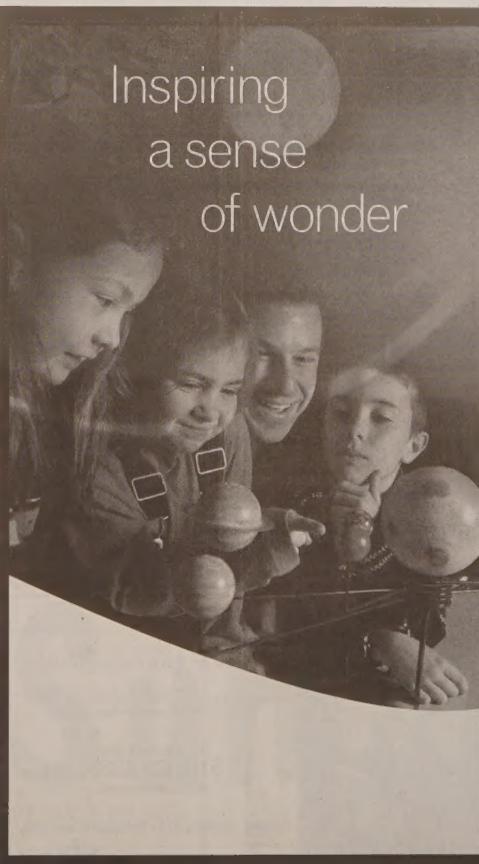
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The Renaissance School

Going Beyond the Expected

Calendar

M PAGE 8

California Society of Printmakers
"More Than Expected" through
Aug. 25 at Crafts & Cultural Arts
State of California Office Building
1515 Clay St. Several Berkeley
works exhibited. Gallery hours:
Friday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Details:
510-844-8893 or
berkeleyartcenter.org.

Annual Berkeley Art Center Association National Juried Exhibition is
Aug. 27 at Berkeley Art Center,
1275 Walnut St. Gallery
hours: Wednesday-Sunday, 12-5 p.m.
with donations accepted. Details:
510-844-8893 or
berkeleyartcenter.org.

Arch L. Magnes Museum, 2911
St. Berkeley, presents "Case
of Emanuel El Sisterhood for Personal
enrichment" Aug. 29-Feb. 5 at Sec-
ond Floor Gallery. Curator's talk with
Ann Irvin 2 p.m. Aug. 28. — "The
End of the Exodus: The Ripping Currents of
Power" by Peter Forgas & Labyrinth
Aug. 29-Jan. 22. Artist talk with
Fidler and Larry Abramson 2 p.m.
Aug. 30. — Colloquium "Mining Memory"
Aug. 29-15. — "Houses and House-
Potability in Jewish Faith and Cul-
ture" Aug. 29-15. Details:
510-549-6950.

Arata Ryohel: Etchings and
"Self" exhibition shows through Aug.
15 at Scriptum-Schuman Gallery, 1659
Palo Ave., Berkeley. Hours: 11
a.m.-Wednesday-Sunday. Details:
510-844-0623.

Arts Center, 3105 Shat-
tuck Ave., presents the following exhibi-
tions: Photos & Paintings by Cuban
Artist Roberto Salas, Francisco Rivero in
Aug. 31. — Paintings by
Aug. 31. — Paintings & prints of
Genaro Galindo in the Theater
Aug. 29. Details: 510-849-2569.

Arts Committee presents ex-
"From Life," featuring plein air and
water paintings of Iris Sabre through
2 at Foyer Gallery, Albany Commu-
nity Center, 1249 Marin Ave., Albany.
Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-9 p.m.,
9:30 p.m. Saturdays. Details:
510-844-1577.

Artists Players presents Edmond

Rostand's classic story "Cyrano de Bergerac" 4 p.m. Saturdays, Sundays
through Sept. 11, at John Hinkel Park, 41
Somerset Ave., Berkeley. Free; donations
accepted. Details:
www.shotgunplayers.org or 510-841-
6500.

The Ames Gallery presents "Jon Sert:
Recent Acquisitions" exhibit through
Sept. 17 at 2661 Cedar St., Berkeley.
Hours: 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. weekdays;
evenings/weekends by appointment. De-
tails: 510-845-4949 or
www.amesgallery.com.

Bad4 Museum presents "Wholly
Grace," a solo exhibit of the work of
Susan Duhan Felix through Sept. 29 at Pacific
School of Religion, 1798 Scenic
Ave., Berkeley. Hours: Tuesdays, Thursdays
10 a.m.-3 p.m. or by appointment. De-
tails: 510-844-0528.

Film/dance/stage

Ashkenaz Music & Dance
Community Center, 1317 San Pablo
Ave., Berkeley, presents: Cosmo,
Hazorla 9:30 p.m. Aug. 12. \$11-\$13. — Cajun dance lesson 8 p.m.;
Swamp Coolers 9 p.m. Aug. 13. \$11-\$13. — Bellydance lesson 6:30 p.m.;
Cafe Belair 7:30 p.m. Aug. 14. \$10. —
Cajun dance lesson 8 p.m.;
Courtetables 8:30 p.m. Aug. 16. \$9. —
Swing dance lesson with Belinda
Ricklets 8 p.m.; Swingthing 9 p.m.
Aug. 17. \$9. — Go Jimmy Go,
Uptones, Deal's Gone Bad 8:30 p.m.
Aug. 18. \$8. Details:
www.ashkenaz.com or 510-525-
5054.

La Pena Cultural Center, 3105
Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, presents:
Bobby Matos 8 p.m. Aug. 12. \$12-\$15. — Venezuelan Music Project 8
p.m. Aug. 13. \$12-\$14. — Cafe
Poetry, Open Mic with Paradise 10
p.m. Aug. 17. — Donation.
Palenque: Son, Lo Mas Sublime de
la Musica 9 p.m. Aug. 19. \$12. —
Geoff "Double G" Gallegos 1 p.m.
Aug. 20. Free. — Tao Ruspoli's
documentary "Flamenco: a Personal
Journey" 8 p.m. Aug. 20. \$7. —
Viviana Guzman presents "The Music
of Passion: from Tango & Beyond"
7:30 p.m. Aug. 21. \$12. — Latino
Film Festival presents "The
Storytellers" 7:30 p.m. Aug. 25. \$8.
— Dr. Loco's Rockin' Jalapeno Band
9 p.m. Aug. 26. \$7-\$10. — Bokolada
Conde 8 p.m. Aug. 27. \$15. Details:
www.cochorale.org.

Berkeley Richmond Jewish Commu-
nity Center presents "All Our Voices:
Celebrating Diversity through Story-
telling" multicultural festival 10 a.m.-5
p.m. Aug. 28 at 1414 Walnut St., Berke-
ley. Features storytelling performances,
interactive workshops and community
story swapping. Hear Jewish, Latino,

www.lapena.org or 510-849-2568.

Contra Costa Civic Theatre presents
Cole Porter's musical "Anything Goes" 8
p.m. Fridays & Saturdays through Aug.
13, 2 p.m. Sundays July 10-Aug. 7 at
951 Pomona Ave., El Cerrito. Admission:
\$12-\$20. Reservations: 510-524-9138 or
www.cct.org.

Actors Ensemble of Berkeley
presents Agatha Christie's "A Murder
is Announced" 8 p.m. Fridays,
Saturdays through Aug. 13 at Live
Oak Theatre, 1301 Shattuck Ave.,
Berkeley. Admission: \$10.
Reservations: 510-649-5999 or
www.aoeberkeley.org.

Berkeley Repertory Theatre presents
Mike Daisey's "The Ugly American"
through Aug. 13 at Thrust Stage, 2025
Addison St., Berkeley. Showtimes:
Wednesday & Sundays 7 p.m.; Thurs-
days, Fridays & Saturdays 8 p.m. Solo
show about one man's misadventures as
an exchange student in London. Tickets:
\$15-\$35. For group discounts, call 510-
647-2918. Tickets/details: 510-647-2949, toll
free 888-4-BRT-Tix or www.berke-
leyrep.org.

Berkeley Repertory Theatre presents
a special workshop of Mike Daisey's
"Monopoly" at 7 p.m. Aug. 14 at Thrust
Stage, 2025 Addison St., Berkeley. Tickets:
\$5. Tickets/details: 510-647-2949, toll
free 888-4-BRT-Tix or www.berke-
leyrep.org.

California Shakespeare Theater pre-
sents "The Life and Adventures of
Nicholas Nickleby, Part One" Aug. 18-
Sep 16 at Bruns Amphitheater, 100 Gate-
way Blvd., Orinda. Cost: \$35-\$45 advan-
tage; a limited number of
pay-what-you-can seats available at door
on a cash-only basis beginning two
hours before show. Details/showtimes:
510-548-9666 or www.CalShakes.org.

Contra Costa Chorale is accepting
new singers & soloists for its 40th an-
niversary season. Rehearsals are Mon-
days 7:15-9:45 p.m. at Hillside Commu-
nity Church, 1422 Hillside St., El
Cerrito. Call 510-524-1861 for details, or
come to rehearsals starting Aug. 22. De-
tails: www.cccchorale.org.

Berkeley Richmond Jewish Commu-
nity Center presents "All Our Voices:
Celebrating Diversity through Story-
telling" multicultural festival 10 a.m.-5
p.m. Aug. 28 at 1414 Walnut St., Berke-
ley. Features storytelling performances,
interactive workshops and community
story swapping. Hear Jewish, Latino,

Asian, African-American and Native-
American stories come to life. Develop
skills, techniques to tell your own stories.
Fee: \$40-\$45 adults, \$20-\$25 ages 12-
19; \$10-\$15 ages 6-11. Details: 510-444-4755.

Shotgun Players present "Cyrano
de Bergerac" 4 p.m. Saturdays,
Sundays through Sept. 5 at John
Hinkel Park, 41 Somerset Ave., North
Berkeley. Free, donations
appreciated. Members can reserve
one guest ticket per membership.
Adventure of unrequited love,
passion, and exceptional sword
fighting. Details:
www.shotgunplayers.org.

Affordable Kundalini Yoga is Tues-
days 4:15-5:30 p.m. through Aug. 16 at
Studio 12, 2525-8th St., Berkeley. Six
weeks cost \$42. Details: 510-841-4339.

Berkeley's Fibromyalgia Support
Group holds their third annual "Show
and Tell" Rap Session from 12-2 p.m.
Aug. 16 at Hemick Campus of Alta Bates
Summa Medical Center, 2001 Dwight
Way, Berkeley. Attendees are asked to
bring items, information or hot tips that
help them manage their fibromyalgia.
Free. Newly or non-diagnosed people
also welcome. Details: Deborah 510-644-
3273.

Learning

Jazzschool, 2087 Addison St. Berke-
ley, presents the following classes: Ex-
ploring Jazz Guitar with John Stowell 5-7
p.m. Aug. 12. \$65-\$80. — Brazilian Mu-
sic: Past, Present and Future with Harvey
Wainapel 12-2:30 p.m. Aug. 14. \$25. —
Personal Financial Planning for Musi-
cians with Adam Messinger 11:45 a.m.-
1:45 p.m. Aug. 14. Free. — Playing the
Whole Piano: Contemporary Approaches
to the Left Hand with Geoffrey Keezer
11:45 a.m.-1:45 p.m. Aug. 14. \$30-\$45.
— The Tao of Drumming with Brian
Melvin 2-4 p.m. Aug. 14. \$25. — Speech
Level Singing Technique with Dave
Stroud 12-4 p.m. Aug. 14. \$85-\$80. —
Lecture and Demonstration with Latin
jazz artist John Calloway 8-10 p.m. Aug.
19. Free. — What High School/College
Band Directors Need to Know About
Latin Jazz with Mark Levine 4-6 p.m.
Aug. 20. \$30-\$45. — Hip-Hop Production
Techniques with Michael Aaberg 2-4
p.m. Aug. 21. \$20. — An Ergonomic Ap-

proach to the Drumset with Mat Manucci
2-4 p.m. Aug. 21. \$30-\$45. Details: 650-
845-5373 or www.jazzschool.com.

RabbitEars Rescue presents the fol-
lowing dog obedience classes/events at
303 Arlington Ave., Kensington: Tilden
Birding Walk with Denise Wright 8:11 a.m.
Aug. 14. Fee: \$25 includes breakfast. —

Come, Spot, Come: Total Recall 6:30-7:30
p.m. Aug. 17. Get exercise and practice
strategy for getting a reliable recall. Fee:
\$35. — The Global Backyard: Nature, Fire
Safety & Green Materials with Robin Free-
man, Merritt College Environmental Pro-
gram Chair is 4:30-6 p.m. Aug. 20. \$20
suggested donation. Reservations: 510-
525-6155 or www.rabbitears.org.

Obituaries
and In Memoriam

Ralph Stone

Ralph Stone, teacher and student counselor at Albany High School, died at 88. Ralph Olin Stone died Tuesday morning, August 2, at his home in El Cerrito. He was in declining health following a broken hip surgery. Ralph Stone devoted most of his life to teaching and counseling high school students. Two years in Marysville, California were followed by two years in Greece as a Fulbright grantee. In 1954 he joined the faculty at Albany High School, teaching English and Journalism, until his retirement in 1982. From 1961 to 1963 he was again a Fulbright teacher, this time in Turin, Italy. Ralph was an avid backpacker, having covered the John Muir Trail on his honeymoon in 1949. He also loved sailing and fishing. With his three sons and some of their friends he built a cabin retreat on Indian Creek near Taylorsville, California, where he spent many happy summers with family and frequent guests. He loved music (especially opera) and he enjoyed traveling around the world in 1982, New Zealand and Australia in 1992, and many trips to Europe. Ralph received a BA degree in Journalism and an MA degree in Political Science from the University of California, Berkeley. He served in the 587th Bomb Group of the 559th Bomb Squadron of the U.S. Army Air Corp during World War II. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Marga Hendrick Stone; and three sons, Mark (Berkeley), Geoffrey (Beaverton, Oregon) and Christopher (Newberg, Oregon); a sister, Alma Stone (Washington D.C.); as well as by five grandchildren.

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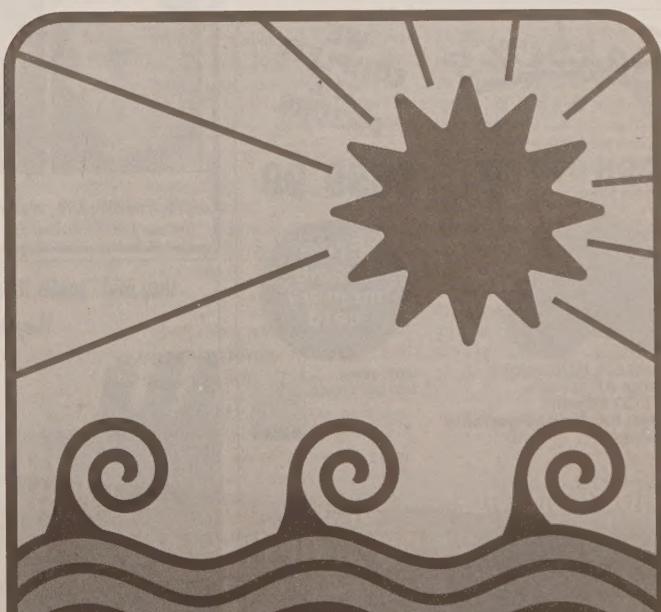
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Residents lobby schools to cancel cell contracts

By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

A subcommittee of the West County School District Board will meet Wednesday to consider whether the district should overturn two cell phone antenna contracts in El Cerrito and Richmond.

The board convened the meeting after residents lobbied to overturn the contracts for placement of antennas at El Cerrito High School and the Alvarado Adult Education Center in the Richmond Annex.

School Board member Karen Pfeifer said it was unclear whether the cell tower antennas — which emit low-frequency radio waves — were harmful but believed the district never adequately discussed the issue.

"It simply wasn't questioned when the board approved this the

IF YOU GO

- **WHAT:** Subcommittee meeting of the West County School District Board
- **WHEN:** Wednesday at 3 p.m.
- **WHERE:** 1300 Potrero Ave.
- **INFORMATION:** Call 510-412-4362

first time," Pfeifer said. "Now I'm bringing it back to the board to ask that question."

The board approved a contract last year allowing Metro PCS to erect three antennas mounted on a light pole at the El Cerrito High School football field. The board has also approved a contract with Cingular Wireless for six antennas on the roof at Alvarado School in the Rich-

mond Annex.

Each installation would earn the school district about \$1,500 a month in rent, said Vince Kil-martin, the West County School District's associate superintendent for operations. The district planned for the money to go directly to the schools.

Pfeifer said she plans to ask the board whether it should drop the contracts and whether the district should ban all wireless transmitters from schools. A full board will take up the matter at a September meeting.

Residents around both schools are encouraging the school district to cancel the contracts. A flier circulated by residents around El Cerrito High School claims the antennas will adversely affect people's health and lower property values.

"The risks far outweigh the benefits," said El Cerrito High School neighbor and antenna opponent Alisa Crovetti.

Crovetti and other cell tower opponents are also planning to ask El Cerrito to limit cell towers to commercial or industrial areas of the city and provide for a 50-foot buffer zone between the antennas and residential areas.

On Aug. 26, the city is planning to release a draft telecommunications ordinance that will regulate placement and operation of cell phone antennas in El Cerrito neighborhoods. The ordinance will be available online at www.el-cerrito.org and at City Hall, 10890 San Pablo Ave.

Reach Alan Lopez at 510-243-3578 or at alopez1@cctimes.com.

Pathway

FROM PAGE A1

That may involve possibly mixing the cullet with another substance, such as decomposed granite or fine gravel, that would better adhere to the tubing.

Another option is removing the glass and plastic mats and replacing it with porous asphalt.

"We want (a path) that's both useful and ADA compliant and not a maintenance problem," Mintz said.

In the meantime, according to a flier posted around the path, residents with comments or suggestions about the trail can call the Public Works Department at 510-215-4382.

The flier also points out a number of other recent trail improvements: Adjacent to the glass path, trail-side seating and an in-



EL CERRITO PUBLIC WORKS is considering replacing a recently installed pathway made of recycled glass and plastic mats with other materials that are more wheelchair-friendly.

interpretive sign depicting the history and ecology of the creek from Talbot to Kains avenues;

plus signs directing pedestrians toward the Bay Trail.

After pedestrians cross west

on San Pablo Avenue, they'll find more signs and new landscaping at Adams Street. The city has also installed a new gate and fence separating the creek and apartment buildings at Adams Street west to Creekside Park; as well as a paved sidewalk at Creekside Park, made of concrete and bits of recycled glass.

The El Cerrito Redevelopment Agency spent \$65,000 on the \$304,000 project, with the balance paid for through regional grants and taxes, including \$191,358 from the San Francisco Bay Trail.

"We all hope this will eventually be part of a connection from the Bay Trail to the Ohlone Greenway," said Schwartz. "It's like the next step."

Reach Alan Lopez at 510-243-3578 or at alopez1@cctimes.com.

Contract

FROM PAGE A1

For instance, district staff members recommended paying Bridge-works an additional \$14,850 for four days of service in June, according to a district document. The money comes on top of a \$20,000 contract for helping the district train teachers how to use new English textbooks. Funding comes from federal grants used for training teachers and principals.

Administrators also asked the board to OK another \$11,200 in state grants for Bridgeworks, on top of an \$180,000 contract for working with Chavez, Nystrom and Riverside elementary schools, Adams Middle School and Kennedy and Richmond high schools.

Board member Dave Brown called the practices unacceptable. He said district administrators should run smaller contracts by the board before work is to begin. Larger proposals should be vetted

by the board long before they come up for a vote.

"I would like to see the process cleaned up," Brown said.

O'Neill, president of Bridgeworks, is a popular consultant known for his efficacy, said Doris Wilson, superintendent of the 28,000-student Desert Sands school district in La Quinta.

O'Neill worked with four Desert Sands schools in 2001 and 2002, largely to develop curriculum for students who speak English as a second language. His rate at the time was about \$1,800 a day, Wilson said.

"We certainly saw an improvement in student writing," Wilson said.

Last week, several West Contra Costa principals defended O'Neill, arguing that he helped schools raise test scores.

"He's bringing us back to where we need to be," said Bonnie Glover, principal at Adams Middle School. "He helps us decide what we need to teach and what kids need to learn."

Regional Superintendent Howard Cohen said that not approving the contract could jeopardize work O'Neill is slated to perform Aug. 19 and 23.

Brown told administrators to arrange to pay O'Neill for the two days. The board delayed a vote on the upcoming year's contract.

"Given what we paid him last year and what we're going to pay him this year, I think he ought to keep the 19th open," Brown said.

Shirley Dang covers education. She can be reached at 510-262-2798 or e-mail sdang@cctimes.com.

Tax

FROM PAGE A1

The school district's vote means the Albany City Council will not move forward with a November parcel tax measure, said City Administrator Beth Pollard.

On Monday, the council had voted 3-1 to move forward with its own parcel tax on the November ballot if the school district did not.

The council was considering a measure that would have charged

residents \$145 per home, raising \$1 million annually for city programs and improvements.

The council can place a measure on the June 2006 ballot. Pollard said the council will consider its options in the fall.

Meanwhile, a campaign meeting for the district tax will be held at 7 p.m. Monday in Room 8 of Cornell Elementary School, at Solano and Cornell avenues. For more information, call school board member Miriam Walden at 510-526-8577.

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St. Mary's

FROM PAGE A1

At its July 5 meeting, the council voted to allow St. Mary's to keep the facilities but not to use them. The council has now twice postponed adopting a final resolution.

On Monday, supporters of St. Mary's as well as the Peralta group packed the council chamber and spilled out into the lobby.

St. Mary's says it needs the band pavilion for rehearsals and much of the other space for classes. Residents say the school needs to live within its restrictions.

Councilman Farid Javandeh said the two sides should work with a mediator the school has hired to bring them closer to agreement.

The council voted 3-1 to table the issue until its next meeting on Sept. 6. City Councilman Robert Lieber dissented.

In other business:

■ The council and residents debated a possible change to the way council members can bring up issues for discussion or a vote, but made little change to the protocol.

Vice Mayor Allan Maris said he wants to improve the quality of agenda items proposed by changing the way they are placed on the City Council agenda. Maris proposed that at a prior meeting, a council member would announce his or her wish to place an item on an upcoming agenda and then submit a written report at the next meeting. If a council member did not think the agenda item was properly prepared, a motion could be made to continue it to a future



Lieber

meeting.

Currently, any council member can bring an item to the discussion or a vote, and it is placed on the agenda.

Lieber, who has brought several council issues before the council to stifle him.

On Monday, the council voted 4-1 that council members

announce issues for future meetings. Lieber abstained.

■ The council voted 4-1 to move forward with a parcel tax ballot measure.

■ The council voted 4-1 to place a charter amendment on the June ballot that will change city committee terms from two to four years. Mayor Robert Maris voted against it.

■ Finally, the council voted 4-1 to move forward with a parcel tax ballot measure.

■ The council voted 4-1 to back the recommendation to change the charter review committee.

"It's not a good idea to place it on the ballot," he said.

Reach Alan Lopez at 510-243-3578 or at alopez1@cctimes.com.

Ordinance

FROM PAGE A1

The Kensington Municipal Advisory Committee asked for no more than two events and 125 people.

State Senate Majority leader Don Perata, D-Oakland, crafted state legislation last year that also would have allowed Scher to legally hold his events.

This year, District 1 Supervisor John Gioia, who represents Kensington, has been working with the county community development department to craft the ordinance the board considered Tuesday afternoon.

If approved, it will affect all of the unincorporated county.

Supervisor Federal Pittsburg applauded Gioia's leadership. "I think this is a benefit to us in the unincorporated areas," he said.

The board made amendments to the ordinance.

Supervisor Mark D.

asked the county to re

finance.

Supervisor Mar

wanted the ordinance

events to non-consecut

Like the other su

Ulrikema applauded Gioia

attempting to find a soluti

conflict but said non-pr

ganizations could find othe

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Advertising supplement in The Berkeley Voice, The Tamalpais, The Marin Citizen, The Piedmontian



DENNIS EVANOSKY

Peeling back the layers

IN 1889, RETIRED MASTER MARINER Captain J.F. Luttrell built the home at 2328 Channing Way in Berkeley's College Homestead Tract for himself and his wife. The Luttrells lived here for five years.

BY DENNIS EVANOSKY

SECTION EDITOR

In her book Berkeley Landmarks, Susan Cerny speaks of the "layers of history" to be found in Berkeley's South of Campus neighborhood. A drive through the area

reveals a mix of churches, dormitories, parking lots, homes and a few pleasant surprises.

One of these surprises is a Queen Ann-style home at 2328

See HOME, Page B2

Berkeley Queen Anne
in the 1866 College
Homestead Tract

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EQUAL HOUSING LENDER



HOUSING AFFORDABILITY FUND co-chair Sereta Churchill and Carl San Miguel, Housing Affordability Fund chair present a \$15,000 check to Lois Harris, OAR president, Ted Dang, EBALDC chairman and Lynette Jung Lee, EBALDC executive director for aid in the development of low to moderate income housing in Oakland.

Oakland Realtors receive HAF funds

BY BOBBIE REID
CORRESPONDENT

At a recent presentation by the California Association of Realtors (CAR) Housing Affordability Fund (HAF) in cooperation with the Oakland Association of Realtors (OAR), a check for \$15,000 was awarded to the East Bay Asian Land Development Corporation (EBALDC). The monies will help with the development of low to moderate priced town houses in Oakland. The lower San Antonio District in the Fruitvale area is the chosen site for the project.

HAF receives funds from CAR members and non-members as well. These contributions are tax deductible. The goal is to address housing issues in the state of California. HAF distributes the aid through local Realtor associations.

These groups submit requests for local projects dealing with housing supply and affordability. HAF funds are also used for closing cost assistance, down payment assistance and loan qualification courses. HAF monies can make a greater impact with the cooperation of local associations and their housing partners.

The idea to apply for the HAF funding started at OAR. Georgia Richardson of Richardson Real Estate heads up the Housing Op-

portunity Committee. She brought the plans of EBALDC for building the Sausal Creek Town Homes to the attention of the group and recommended applying for HAF funding. The committee agreed and the OAR Board of Directors approved the move in May.

The involvement of OAR's task force is far reaching. In addition to facilitating this award the group offers other aid to the affordable housing problem. This year the group invited the public to a HAF Fair and sponsored a Bus Tour of available lower cost homes. They also teach applicants for home loans how to repair poor credit.

EBALDC is celebrating 30 years of developing Oakland.

They have built new and refurbished existing housing, always for the benefit of those who need housing help. Also offered are programs teaching how to become a small business owner, revitalize neighborhoods and save for homeownership.

Members of the OAR Board of Directors were on hand to observe the \$15,000 check changing hands. Presenting the check were HAF chair Carl San Miguel and co-chair Sereta Churchill with Monica Rodriguez, CAR manager of housing opportunity programs,

looking on.

San Miguel and Churchill were instrumental in convincing HAF that the Oakland project was worthy of the aid. Rodriguez was responsible for coordinating the funding process from the beginning to its conclusion.

Ted Dang, chair of the EBALDC Board and Karoleen Feng, the organization's assistant project manager, gratefully accepted the check. Feng gathered information for the HAF application. Dang is a long time OAR member. OAR President Lois Harris, a Realtor with Prudential California Realty, was there with kudos for all on the results of the OAR Task Force efforts.

EBALDC wants to partner with organizations that have sites in downtown or East Oakland needing development. Potential homebuyers can learn more about a matching savings program. Call 510-287-5353 with questions.

Georgia Richardson encourages Realtors and others to donate. "Local association Realtor member contributions to HAF increase the probability of projects in their city receiving funds for affordable housing initiatives." Learn more about HAF by visiting carhaf@car.org or OAR by calling 510-836-3000.

L.A.: The king of sprawl moves inwards

BY GLENN ROBERTS JR.
INMAN NEWS

Los Angeles is known for standard traffic, a maze of freeways, long commutes, sprawling suburbs and dense smog.

Nobody walks in L.A., right?

There's even a song about the region's car-centric lifestyle. But there is something brewing at the center of it all, in the city's downtown core. Developers have been buying up old buildings and redeveloping them as residential units, or starting from scratch with brand-new residential buildings. There are thousands of residents living downtown, with thousands more moving units on the way.

Whether it's a matter of demographics, changing values, a new social dynamic or a combination of all the above, people are living — and walking — in downtown Los Angeles like they never have before. While several other major cities across the country have enjoyed a residential just no more land available, Los Angeles has been a long time coming," said Gregory Vilkin, president of Forest City Residential West, a development company that is working on several downtown Los Angeles residential rebirth through the construction of new inner-city housing units, downtown Los Angeles did not have an established residential district.

"It's a very different lifestyle choice and we're seeing it more and more."

Downtown living is no longer taboo, and residents and developers are increasingly drawn to urban areas in many cities across the nation. Experts say demographics and lifestyle choices are driving the trend. More people are getting fed up with long commutes, immigration and population are surging in some areas, and there is a niche group of people — among them young professionals and empty nesters — who are bored with the 'burbs.

Downtown Los Angeles has historically been a nine-to-five destination, with a large office sector and limited retail offerings.

"People were just there to work," Vilkin said.

The city paved the way for change with an adaptive reuse ordinance in 1999 that allowed older buildings to be renovated from commercial to residential uses without meeting modern code requirements, he said.

"The first wave was artists who did the typical warehouse conversions. That was followed by professionals and folks looking for a little bit edgier lifestyle. Now you see the full spectrum.

"Right now there are between 4,000 and 5,000 new living units that are going to open in the next 36 months in downtown Los Angeles. It's reached the critical mass that you need for additional retail services," he said.

One of the projects at Vilkin's company is the conversion of a 37-story office building, 1100 Wilshire, into 230 condominium units. Studios range in size from 788-26

Downtown Los Angeles has historically been a nine-to-five destination, with a large office sector and limited retail offerings. People just there to work.

square feet, with prices starting at about \$350,000.

Two-bedroom units range from 745-1,860 square feet, with prices starting above \$550,000. The project will also feature one-bedroom units, two-story lofts and penthouse units.

Other Forest City projects in Los Angeles include the conversion of a historic streetcar company office building to rental apartments, an office-to-residential conversion in Los Angeles' Korea Town, a new loft project near the Staples Center sports and entertainment arena.

Michael Leccese, a spokesman for Forest City, said there are more than 100 residential projects now under way in downtown Los Angeles.

In January, the Los Angeles Downtown Center Business Improvement District released a downtown market report and the results of a demographic survey of new downtown residents. The report, "Live, Work and Play Downtown L.A.," estimates a total downtown population of about 23,900.

"Downtown Los Angeles is seeing a burst of new residential development, in both adaptive reuse of older buildings, as well as in new construction. A walk through downtown shows the rebirth of city living. Development is taking place in every neighborhood of downtown," the report states. Much of the residential construction activity has been in the past five years, the report also states.

The survey of downtown residents included 588 responses from people living downtown. The survey found that downtown residents are between 23-34, and about 58 percent are Caucasian, followed by Asian/Pacific Islanders at 17.1 percent.

cent. About 54 percent, 57 percent are single and 42 percent worked downtown. About 25 percent of survey patients they have commute times than 15 minutes.

Twenty-two percent of respondents as executives managers; with 16.5 percent analysts, engineers and 15.3 percent students.

Most of the married downtown do not have children living with them. They also found that about 25 percent of downtown residents have household incomes of \$100,000, and the median income is about \$60,000.

Participants cited proximity to workplace as the top reason for downtown living, followed by access to other social activities and culture, convenience, proximity to public transportation and clients, in that order.

The construction of the Center arena was a key to moving more residents downtown. Vilkin said, which helped establish a night life in the area and an "18-hour downtown."

The stadium drew residents open in the area. There was a real development trend after Field was built in downtown.

Baby boomers and the are looking for more proximity to work or school and lengthy commutes are some Americans to relocate them to the suburbs.

The survey of downtown residents included 588 responses from people living downtown. The survey found that downtown residents are between 23-34, and about 58 percent are Caucasian, followed by Asian/Pacific Islanders at 17.1 percent.

See SPRawl, Page 5

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Anatomy of a real estate title search

■ Industry under scrutiny in wake of nationwide investigations

BY JANIS MARA
INMAN NEWS

Karen Applebee of Napa Land Title has 27 years' experience in the title and escrow industry. When the jobs are simple, she can put out a title search in 15 or 20 minutes, producing four or five reports in one day, she said.

However, "sometimes it can take days," said Applebee, a title officer

whose company is in Napa Valley, a California area known for its wineries. "We've had to go back to the land grants from when Mexico occupied California."

Title insurance companies are under intense scrutiny nationwide in the wake of Colorado's investigation of major title insurers for alleged kickbacks. Though an intense light has flooded the industry, still, little is known about the actual process of a title search. Applebee, a title officer at 27-year-old Napa Land Title, allowed Inman News to observe her on a typical day to

shed some light on the process.

It's obvious that Applebee is a pro as she wrangles 2-foot-by-1-1/2-foot maps from a huge file cabinet with 3-inch-tall, 2-foot-wide drawers, reads the cryptic codes on the maps, and whips the awkward, huge sheets of paper through the photocopier.

"There's no school for title search officers like there is for engineers," Applebee said. "I learned on the job." She started as a legal secretary, though not in the escrow

See SEARCH, Page B6

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Real estate consumers take gamble with pre-emptive offers

Benefits of open-market competition not available

MINNIE NEWS

Recently, a home seller who lived in Oakland's Montclair district was getting his home ready to go on the market. In the process, his dog ran away. While searching for the dog, he met a neighbor and told him that his home would be for sale shortly.

The neighbor told friends about the upcoming listing. The friends had recently sold their home and were having a hard time finding a suitable home to buy. Delighted to have the tip, they contacted the seller who agreed to show them the house before it hit the open market. It was love at first sight. In order to avoid competition from other buyers, they made a pre-emptive offer.

Pre-emptive offers have become popular in low-inventory markets where multiple-offer competitions are common. A pre-emptive offer is one that is made on the market or before the date the sellers have set to accept offers.

HOUSE HUNTING TIP: A pre-emptive offer poses a dilemma for sellers. If they accept the offer, they'll save themselves the hassle of the marketing process. But price-wise, it's a gamble. They might sell for a higher price with an aggressive marketing campaign. However, buyers who make pre-emptive offers are usually aware of this. So their offers tend to be strong.

Otherwise, why would a seller agree to forego the chance of selling for a good price?

On the other hand, they could sell for less on the open market. And, there's no guarantee that a buyer whose pre-emptive offer was refused will be around when the sellers do decide to accept offers. If he is, and he makes an offer, it could be for a lower price than he initially offered if there are no competing offers at that time.

In the above example, the pre-emptive offer was for \$75,000 over the asking price. The seller was tempted. But he decided to stick to his original game plan, which was to expose the house to the market before accepting offers. It turned out that the listing was a hot property. It attracted nine offers and sold for \$285,000 over the asking price. If the seller had accepted the pre-emptive offer, he would have left \$210,000 on the table.

Another Montclair seller who sold around the same time had a different experience with a pre-emptive offer. His property also received a lot of interest. It was a cosmetic fixer-upper on a good lot in a desirable location.

After the property was listed, but before the designated offer date, several real estate agents who represented interested buyers called the listing agent to find out if the seller would entertain a pre-emptive offer. The seller said he wanted to wait to hear offers. However, one persistent buyer insisted on writing a pre-emptive offer, which his agent delivered to the listing agent. Although the

seller was pleased with the offer for \$150,000 over the list price, he turned it down. He felt it would be unfair to the other buyers who had wanted to make pre-emptive offers but who were told they had to wait.

On offer date, the seller received eight offers. The accepted offer was for \$5,000 less than the price offered by the pre-emptive buyer. The buyer who made the initial pre-emptive offer did not resubmit his offer.

THE CLOSING: Pre-emptive offers are risky for both buyers and sellers. Sellers who accept pre-emptive offers will never know if they could have sold for more on the open market. Buyers will never know if they could have paid less.

Dian Hymer can be reached at 510-339-4777 or by e-mail at Dianhymer.com.

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| COMPANY | Loan Product Rate/Points APR/Lock | Loan Product Rate/Points APR/Lock | Loan Product Rate/Points APR/Lock | Loan Product Rate/Points APR/Lock | RATES AS OF 08/09/05 | COMMENTS | |
|--|---|---|--|---|---|---|--|
| First Blackhawk Financial 800-796-MARY DRE# 01140465 Fees=\$1750 | 30-yr Fixed 5.875 .0000 5.967 .30 | 30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6.000 .0000 6.043 .30 | 5/1 ARM Jumbo 5.750 .0000 5.793 .30 | 3/1 ARM Jumbo 5.500 .0000 5.542 .30 | JUMBO AND SUPER JUMBO SPECIALIST Call 7 days per week 1800-796-MARY More rates at www.marylightell.com | | |
| Golden Gate Home Loans 877-246-5899 DOC# 6052720 Fees=\$1532 | 30-yr Fixed 5.625 .125 5.718 .30 | 30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6.000 .0000 6.061 .30 | 4.875 .0000 4.947 .30 | 3/1 ARM 4.875 .0000 4.940 .30 | *700 FICO *30 JUMBO 700 FICO ***Pot Neg Am/ PMT on \$500K=\$1608 | | |
| Imperial Mortgage 800-961-5826 DRE# 01033932 Fees=\$1453 | 30-yr Fixed 5.500 .1000 5.690 .30 | 30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750 .1000 5.940 .30 | 4.625 .1000 4.820 .30 | 3/1 I/O 4.625 .1000 4.820 .30 | 5/1 JUMBO ARM I/O 5.250 .1000 5.440 .30 | | |
| Main Line Tavistock Mtge 877-876-3600 DOC# 0031784 Fees=\$1298 | 30-yr Fixed 6.750 .0000 6.810 .30 | 30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6.875 .0000 6.908 .30 | 20-yr Fixed 5.500 .0000 5.660 .30 | 15-yr Fixed 5.250 .0000 5.310 .30 | LOWEST RATE & FEE GUARANTEE !!! WWW.MAINLINEINTERNATIONAL.COM - OPEN 7 DAYS NO RATE LOCK FEE - NO APPLICATION FEE | | |
| Mortgage Market 800-835-5226 DRE# 00878592 Fees=\$1875 | 30-yr Fixed 5.875 .0000 5.948 .30 | 30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6.125 .0000 6.219 .30 | 15-yr Fixed 5.500 .0000 5.654 .30 | 5/1 ARM Jumbo 5.375 .0000 5.465 .30 | 5/1 ARM Jumbo 5.250 .0000 5.345 .30 | Great Purchase, Refinance, Construction, Home Equity, 100% LTV Loans Great Service, Over 25 years in Business | |
| Saratoga Bancorp 800-526-6266 DRE# 01220326 Fees=\$1893 | 30-yr Fixed 5.750 .0000 5.783 .45 | 30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6.000 .0000 6.015 .45 | 15-yr Fixed 5.375 .0000 5.902 .45 | 5/1 RM 5.250 .0000 5.662 .45 | Call for No Fee Loans, All Credit, No Income Check Loans! Purch/Ref to 100% www.saratogabancorp.com | | |
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| Washington Mutual Bank 925-256-7717 Fees=\$1149 | 30-yr Fixed call . . . | 30-yr Fxd Jumbo call . . . | 5/5 ARM Jumbo call . . . | 10/1 ARM Jumbo call . . . | Purchases Close in just 7 days/NO POINTS Complimentary Pre-Approvals/NO POINTS (925) 256-7717 (866) WAMU-298 | | |
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| Wells Fargo Home Mtg. 866-809-1502 Fees=\$1431 | 30-yr Fixed call . . . | 30-yr Fxd Jumbo call . . . | 5/1 ARM Jumbo* 5.375 .0000 5.414 .30 | 10/1 ARM Jumbo* 5.780 .0000 5.790 .30 | 100% to 1 ML+ Free Pre Approval Credit Lines to 3 Mi. * Purchase loan, Bank Relationship | | |
| Absolute Mortgage Fund. 888-90-HOMES DOC# 603 A776 Fees=\$1350 | 30-yr Fixed 5.750 .0000 6.790 .30 | 30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.875 .250 5.930 .30 | 15-yr Fixed 5.250 .0250 5.320 .30 | 5/1 ARM 5.125 .0000 5.600 .30 | LOWEST RATES AND FEES IN THE INDUSTRY! Free Float Down Lender fees only \$399! CALL 888-90-HOMES Purch only >720 FICO | | |
| AimLoan.com 888-411-4246 DRE# 0135124 Fees=\$2400 | 30-yr Fixed 5.750 .0000 5.828 .30 | 30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.875 .250 5.928 .30 | 15-yr Fixed 5.250 .0250 5.413 .30 | 5/1 ARM Jumbo 5.125 .0375 5.770 .30 | RATES & FEES ONLINE - Apply & Lock 24/7 Interest Only - Stated income Open Sat/Sun 9-2 P.M. PT | | |
| Americasave Mortgage Corp. 877-464-5218 DOC# 0038692 Fees=\$1223 | 30-yr Fixed 5.625 .0250 5.760 .30 | 30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.875 .0000 5.903 .30 | 3/1 ARM 5.000 .0000 5.989 .30 | 5/1 ARM 5.250 .0000 5.630 .30 | No closing costs loans available www.americasave.com Best rates and lowest fees guaranteed or we pay you \$300! | | |
| CMG Mortgage Services 800-958-5339 DRE# 01370765 Fees=\$1853 | 30-yr Fixed 5.625 .1375 5.807 .30 | 30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.875 .1375 6.028 .30 | 3/1 ARM Jumbo 5.125 .1250 5.260 .30 | 5/1 ARM Jumbo 5.500 .1000 5.638 .30 | OPEN SAT & SUN QUICK QUALIFIER OR NO INCOME LOANS AVAILABLE NO POINTS LOANS AVAILABLE | | |
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BY JUDITH LYNCH

CORRESPONDENT

the Island City. The new volume, which sells for \$18, has been updated and indexed, a boon for serious researchers.

Raconteur, author, and urban planner Minor said, "I have been obsessed with the history and architecture of Alameda for years.

"For the Alameda Planning Department, I wrote the Historic Preservation Element for the Alameda Master Plan. My survey of some 10,000 buildings here was the basis for the Historic Buildings Study List, an important form of recognition and protection of thousands of structures on the Island."

Minor has written many stories about Alameda people, history,

homes, and culture for local newspapers. He also researched and wrote treatises on four Alameda Heritage Areas: Bay Station, Leonardville, Burbank-Portola, and Park Avenue. His most recent book, Alameda at Play, is a history of the city's Department of Recreation and Parks.

The book is available in the Alameda Museum Gift Shop, 2324 Alameda Ave., just off Park Street, call 510-521-1223 for hours and at Spellbinding Tales, 1910 Encinal Ave., Alameda; call 512-523-1105.

Judith Lynch serves on the Alameda Museum Board and the Historical Advisory Board.

kept hearing 'Los Angeles is going to have a downtown.' They kept saying it would happen but it didn't happen." In the late 1990s Weinstein was buying up apartment buildings in the Los Angeles region. And then he heard about an opportunity to buy 10 high-rise buildings downtown.

Weinstein, who spoke during an annual National Multifamily Trends Conference this month in San Francisco, related the story of how he quickly assembled the financing for the purchase of the buildings, and has since pursued residential conversion projects. There is plenty of money available for downtown residential projects, he said. "We're not going to lenders anymore. They're coming to us in a big way."

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Search

FROM PAGE B4

area. After a move within California, she registered with a personnel agency that sent her to a title company in 1970. "I've been in and out of the field, but once it gets in your blood, it never gets out," she said.

The speed with which the title officer can produce title reports seems to suggest that they're not that expensive to generate. Such

reports can cost consumers in the thousands of dollars. This seems to add fuel to the fire of the ongoing investigations, which accuse title insurers of charging consumers inflated prices that involve illegal referral fees.

Not necessarily, Applebee said. It's expensive, she said, to subscribe to the various companies offering data on properties in a given county that make the search quicker. Napa Land Title subscribes to two databases, the Data Trace

system and MetroScan, as well as the county assessor's tax collector database and the county recorder's database.

Though the title insurance process varies from state to state, at Napa Land Title, the process is set in motion when an order comes in, Applebee said.

The order generally comes from real estate agents, according to David Westcott, the attorney who owns 27-year-old Napa Land Title. There's also a refinance market with mortgage

brokers "who like to work with us," he said. Every once in a while the company gets a for-sale-by-owner walk-up client, Westcott said.

Each company can usually only search its own county, Applebee said. "We have to have the records here (in the office) on both microfilm and on computer."

Though most of the records are

available online, the company has hardcopy records from the 1950s and 1960s in the office, she said.

After the order comes in, the next step is to search the records. Applebee starts in the MetroScan database.

The system displays the owner's name, address, sales and loan information, how much the current

owner paid for it, the legal description and property characteristics. Applebee prints out the information and adds it to the file on the property, along with a map provided by MetroScan. The next step is for the county assessor's tax assessor to review the information.

See SEARCH, Page B7

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Search

FROM PAGE B6

base. "This gives us their taxes whether they're paid and assessed or not. It also tells us if any supplemental taxes were paid. This would happen if, for example, you added a pool," Applebee said.

Next, Applebee hits the county recorder's Web site and runs the current homeowner's name to make sure there are no federal,

state or county personal liens on the property.

"Let's say you refused to pay an auto mechanic who worked on my car, and the mechanic got a judgment against you in small claims court. That judgment is good for 10 years and you have to pay it," said Applebee. "It takes precedence over a new loan and Bank of America or whatever lender won't take it over."

The fifth step is checking the Data Trace system, another database the company pays for. This

shows every document that has been recorded on the property - mortgages, second mortgages, liens and easements on the property.

Now Applebee pulls the subdivision map — the huge maps that live in flat files in the office. She looks at the map to see if there are easements, such as allowing telephone poles or the like on the property.

"The dotted line on one area shows a PG&E easement - see?" Applebee points out. "That's a storm drain."

She photocopies the part of the map applying to this property and puts the copy in the file.

Now, Applebee writes up the results of her labors. Another employee of the firm will do the data entry.

"Now we have the preliminary title report," Applebee said. "When the sale closes, we'll issue a title policy."

Because this particular job involved an existing lot in a subdivision, it was easy, Applebee said. Other pieces of property can be much more demanding.

"If you're doing a piece of property in the mountains or a vineyard, it isn't subdivided. The lots aren't perfectly laid out and are in various sizes and you have to read the legal description to make sure you're looking at the right place." This and other reasons make it more complicated, Applebee said.

Complicated title searches can take easily up to two days, she said.

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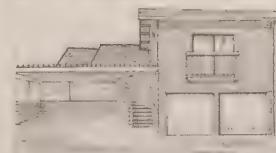
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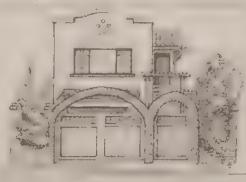
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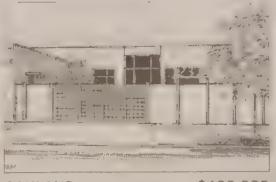
OAKLAND \$469,000
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Cold feet?



[august 14th]

Terrariums: Gardening in a bowl

Once more, many find terrariums entrancing

BY DENISE COWIE
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

Terrariums, those miniature green worlds under glass that gardeners of a certain age remember so well, are making a comeback.

Terrarium-workshop attendance is up; plant stores and gardening catalogs are showcasing fancy containers, and one lifestyle magazine even suggests making tiny terrariums out of clear glass ornaments left over from Christmas.

Can a terrarium episode of "That 70s Show" be far behind? It was in the '70s, in fact, that South Jersey gardener Ann Neff first encountered gardening under glass and made her first little biosphere in a bubble.

"It was like a ship in a bottle, only it was plants," recalls Neff, a professional puppeteer who lived in Manhattan at the time. She still has her tools — long tweezers and bamboo sticks — that she purchased in a plant store in Greenwich Village.

"I'm sure I did it (with instructions) out of Woman's Day or a book," Neff says.

That garden has long since disappeared, but not her enchantment with miniature landscapes. So Neff, who took up gardening with a vengeance when she moved to Monroeville, N.J., a decade ago, signed up immediately when a local nursery offered a terrarium workshop before the holidays.

This time, she created her garden in a glass bowl, with personal touches that included mosses harvested from her 10-acre property, and presented it to her stepdaughter as a gift. "It was great fun," she says.

Terrariums were born in the Victorian age, when plant exploration was at its height. A British physician named Nathaniel Ward was conducting experiments with caterpillars in the 1820s when he discovered, quite accidentally, that plant life could thrive in a glass jar.

This led to the invention of the Wardian case, a mostly glass container, in which live plants could be safely shipped around the globe. It proved an enormous boon to plant exploration, protecting plants from salt spray and changing climates on long ocean voyages.

The glass cases captured the people's fancy. Upscale Victorians began growing plants in ever-more ornate versions, like smaller-scale models of the era's elaborate crystal conservatories.

But Ward saw his invention as



VIOLETS AND FERNS in a terrarium.

Terrariums were born in the Victorian age, when plant exploration was at its height. A British physician named Nathaniel Ward was conducting experiments with caterpillars in the 1820s when he discovered, quite accidentally, that plant life could thrive in a glass jar.

more than just a fashionable home accessory. He was a humanitarian who also envisioned his invention as a way for the poor to be able to grow green vegetables — something that was often impossible in the heavily polluted air of urban areas in 19th-century Britain. He was, according to some accounts, an early advocate of horticultural therapy.

If terrariums in general are enjoying a revival now, so are decorative interpretations of the Wardian case, though they aren't always called that. You can find them in catalogs under such names as Victorian terrarium or Gothic conservatory.

"It's not necessarily just the hardcore horticulture pieces that are offering them," says Chela Kleiber, who manages educational workshops and classes for the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society. "They show up in a home-decorating context, as a design element," even if they have no plants in them at all.

Virginia Page-Hentschel, who teaches a terrarium workshop at Meadowbrook Farm in Abington Township, Pa., probably helped fuel the trend a few years ago, when she began growing begonia cuttings in terrariums for practical reasons — the glass containers create an ideal environment.

"There were some old ones in the back (at Meadowbrook), like little

houses, and I started planting them up," she says. "And people saw them and said, 'Oh, great! Terrariums!' and started buying them. It was like a little trip to the past for them."

But not for Page-Hentschel. "I'm like an old hippie, and I've been doing terrariums since the '70s," she says, laughing.

Lorraine Kiefer, a longtime enthusiast and co-owner of Triple Oaks Nursery & Herb Garden in Franklinville, N.J., likes to bring a bit of the woods indoors in winter by including a few woodland plants in the large bubble terrarium on her coffee table.

"I used to make them and sell them when I was in 7th and 8th grades," Kiefer says.

Page-Hentschel, who usually uses crystal bowls with glass plates as covers, thinks convenience is part of terrariums' renewed appeal.

"I'm sensing it's a lifestyle change for women who work or travel," she says, but still want to garden. "They want to have these beautiful things that take more time, but now they can grow them in a controlled environment and have the best of both worlds — (the plants) are protected from lack of humidity, lack of water, and temperature changes."

"Once the environment gets going, it takes care of itself. You can go away on vacation."

Downtown dwellings bring new life to urban core

BY GLENN ROBERTS JR.
IMMAN NEWS

Lucy Killea, a former California senator and councilwoman, and a former member of the San Diego City Council, has lived for nearly six years in a high-rise downtown condominium in San Diego. She lives alone there and enjoys the downtown lifestyle.

As a politician and resident, Killea has watched the downtown transform from a largely retail district that was geared toward the local military population. Today, wealthy suburban-area people are coming in, and young professionals and retirees like herself are now living there, she said.

"When I first moved in, my friends would say, 'Don't you feel it's dangerous to live downtown?' Now it's, 'Oh, you live downtown? You lucky thing!'" she said. "It's been fabulous for the restaurants. We just have more wonderful restaurants now. It's wonderful for the cultural life."

In several examples, it was the bohemians who rediscovered city life. They were the pioneers who found residential potential in vacant warehouses and long-stagnant commercial buildings. They made their homes and practiced their craft in loft spaces and other odd places.

The following phase of urban dwellers typically includes young professionals, empty-nesters and baby boomers with money to spend. Developers have watched this trend sputter and then spout up at different times and in different places, tapping this burgeoning market of city-seekers by converting mouse-infested eyesores into housing and stores, or starting from scratch with new buildings that boast luxury high-rise condos or modernized lofts. In some cases, housing is springing up in downtown areas previously devoid of residential districts.

Downtown living is no longer taboo, and residents and developers are increasingly drawn to urban areas in many cities across the nation. Experts say demographics and lifestyle choices are driving the trend. More people are getting fed up with long commutes, immigration and population are surging in some areas, and there is a niche group of people — among them young professionals and empty nesters — who are bored with the 'burbs.

In the residential resurgence

Downtown living is no longer taboo, and residents and developers are increasingly drawn to urban areas in many cities across the nation. Experts say demographics and lifestyle choices are driving the trend.

estate industry vocabularies. Builders and planners say these new forms of downtowns, which come in many shapes and sizes and break the mold of traditional developments, have finally come of age as a viable niche in housing market. And infill experts say there is ample room to grow in many of the nation's city centers.

"We've really just seen the first wave. I think because of the demographic factors — more households without kids, fewer of conventional suburban families, a whole lot more empty nesters and a lot more immigrants... people are looking for more town-like living arrangements and less of the one-size-fits-all suburbia," said David A. Goldberg, a spokesman for Smart Growth America.

The agency is a coalition of local, state and national organizations that act as advocates for neighborhood revitalization, environmental friendly construction, and the preservation of farmland, open space and historic buildings, among other aims.

"This willingness to look at the central city and inner suburbs as a place to live has been driven in part by the long commutes and the limited choices that you find in the newer suburbs, where your choices are limited to several

See DOWNTOWN, Page B10

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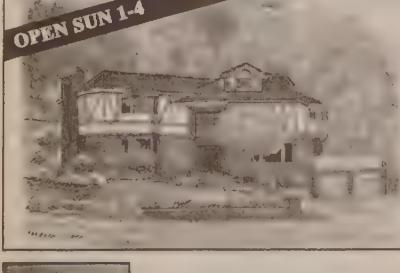
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Downtown

FROM PAGE B8

shades of beige single-family homes," Goldberg added.

Suburban housing developments have been a fixture in the nation's real estate landscape since World War II, and this trend heightened in the 1990s, he also said.

"In the '90s we consumed land a lot faster than we ever had before, per unit of population. Commute distances were growing to the point where cost in time and money to travel to where the jobs were really began to offset the lower cost of the land for a lot of people."

Some savvy developers began to explore the potential for housing much closer to job centers.

Don't expect to find an abandoned suburbia, though. At this time, urban infill is still just a sliver of the nation's overall housing stock, and suburban development continues to grow and thrive. "It's still tougher to do an infill project or a loft conversion than it is to go to a suburban jurisdiction and build on a greenfield," Goldberg said, though that generality does not always hold true for some land-strapped and preservation-minded communities. "I do think in some places there is something approaching a leveling of the playing field."

City living is not for everyone, and in fact most people prefer to live in the suburbs, said R. John Ochsner, division president for Centex Homes, Northern California. "Every time we do a survey at the home builder level, it constantly comes up that buyers prefer single-family detached homes in suburban settings," he said. Suburban development is getting farther afield, and outlying areas once considered emerging housing markets are now considered to be prime markets, Ochsner said.

Downtowns are not the place where most Americans are raising their kids, he said. "What we see in urban living — the buyer profile is anybody with no kids: singles, couples, couples in alternative lifestyles, move-downs, the portion of the population that really can't afford a single-family home but wants to get in the for-sale market."

But Centex hasn't missed out on Infill — the company is the third largest general contractor in the country and has worked on several urban infill projects. "There's a lot to be learned here. Nobody has figured it out. Each deal is unique," Ochsner said. "In general there's still a hard-wiring of the American development machine to the periphery, getting farther and farther away," said Mark Muro, director of policy for the Metropolitan Policy Program at The Brookings Institution. But there is also a major push inward in many cities, he noted. "Sprawl is going to hit the wall in some places. It already has in Los Angeles."

"You have both a heating up in centers that is beginning to warm urban real estate markets that have been slack for a long time, but you also have yet another movement outward, fueled by low-cost inter-

est rates. The move to the periphery is a search for home affordability." A runaway housing market, which has seen record-breaking price appreciation and sales in many markets, has aided on both fronts, he said. "The extreme real estate environment has accelerated both sprawl and (urban) regeneration."

Muro noted the migration trend of 20-something and 30-something young urban professionals moving to some city centers, along with some seniors and empty nesters,

and said that the lack of quality education remains a roadblock for families who might otherwise move downtown.

These new waves of urban residents can gentrify established neighborhoods, driving up real estate prices and driving out low-income residents, though urban infill does hold the promise, he said, "of diversifying what has often become a low-income and often racially isolated population."

In his 2003 book, "House by

House, Block by Block: The Rebirth of America's Urban Neighborhoods," Alexander von Hoffman focused on five cities that have experienced urban renewal. He noticed some general patterns in how a city center is reborn. "There is the phenomenon of urban pioneers — people who like and adopt particular neighborhoods," he said. Von Hoffman is also a senior fellow at the Harvard University Joint Center for Housing Studies.

"People who move in (first) of-

ten are artists, bohemians of one sort or another. They fix up properties as residential areas and they start a new dynamic as something that is valued. It's a gradual process starting with a few people building momentum, and then you get a point of critical mass," he said. Some cities experienced

See DOWNTOWN, Page B8

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Downtown

FROM PAGE B10

and by the 1990s it was a recognizable trend in many areas, von Hoffman said. "It used to be people with money and wherewithal did not want to live in the city. They wanted to live in the suburbs. Everything about the city had a bad image. Hardly anybody lived in downtowns all 40 years ago. If they did they were living in shelters or possibly jury apartments on the waterfront."

But city living "now is quite fashionable," he said. City-goers are typically seeking a more rich cultural experience, with museums, theater, symphony, restaurants, and night life all around, he said, while suburbanites tend to favor big lots, open spaces and schools.

Overall, the population in suburbs and farther outlying communities, sometimes called "exurbs," continues to grow faster than the population living in inner-city areas, but nearly "inner cities are becoming vital, growing places," he said. Robert Lang, director of The Metropolitan Institute at Virginia Tech University, has said that about 50 percent of the U.S. population now resides in suburban areas, while 30 percent live in central-city

areas and about 10 percent live in smaller urban centers with populations of about 10,000 to 50,000. The population in suburban areas is expected to grow to about 60 percent of the total U.S. population by 2030.

Lang also has said, "Inner-city residential development just a passing fancy, a trend that is bound to end?" Lawrence Bond, chairman of Bond Cos., a development company based in Santa

Monica, Calif., said that is not likely. "I don't think it's a phenomenon. I think it's an accepted product type at this time."

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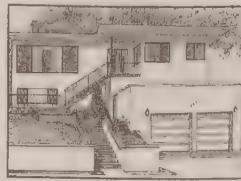
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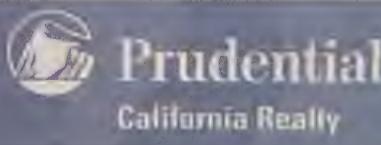


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Caltrans: The aphid's best friend

BY BUZZ BERTOLERO

CORRESPONDENT

Q. How does the State of California have mile after mile of Oleander plants and not be bothered with aphids. I'm bothered with them every year. If I don't spray them often, my flowers are eaten. What is Caltrans doing with aphids? I know that they don't spray several hundred miles of plants every month, as it would be cost prohibitive.

A. Aphids do not discriminate. They will attack all host plants even the ones planted by the division of highways. Caltrans isn't concerned about aphids, scale, black sooty mold or any other insect on oleanders. The reality is they don't care and at 60 miles an hour plus, nobody sees the problem.

Also, they are not overly concerned if the plants don't bloom. What they are looking for is a min-

imum care, green vegetative, traffic barrier. Aphids will always be an annual problem on oleanders, roses and many other plants during the spring of the year.

Aphids are not eating the oleander flowers. They are a sucking insect with a capability of putting holes in plant leaves and flowers. I'd apply Bayer Advanced Tree and

See BUZZ, Page B14

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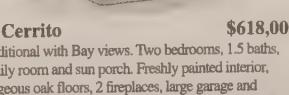
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For more information about these properties visit www.marvengardens.com

Watch what you're getting into

■ Buying a home can mean buying into homeowners association

BY SUE MCALLISTER
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

With the price of a three-bedroom house in Silicon Valley often exceeding \$600,000 these days, many buyers are choosing condominiums, which tend to be a less expensive option.

But buying a condo — or buying a house in some master-planned communities — comes with a set of issues many homeowners don't have to face.

Condo buyers don't simply become homeowners once all the papers are signed. They also become part of a homeowners association. Owners of some single-family houses in planned developments also become part of homeowners associations.

Because a homeowners association is essentially a corporation, it's important to check out the rules and the financial health of that enterprise before becoming one of its owners, experts say.

"You're buying into a part of a business, so you need to look at not only the packet they give you, but talk to people in the development. What do they understand are the problems of the development?" said Sam Chuck, a real estate attorney in San Jose.

The association's business is to pay for maintenance and repair of all the mutually owned parts of the community — things like roadways, sidewalks, pools and roofs — and enforce the rules of the association. Owners pay monthly fees to fund those activities.

The "packet" Chuck referred to is typically a stack of documents that should disclose to a potential buyer all the pertinent facts about the operation of the homeowners association; the do's and don'ts of homeowner behavior and the financial health of the association. The packet is usually provided to buyers once they are in escrow.

Buyers with short "contingency periods" in their purchase agreements should be warned: It can sometimes take several days for an association's property management company to produce the documents.

Among other things, the packet should include copies of the association's articles of incorporation and bylaws, its rules and its "conditions, covenants and restrictions," commonly known as "CC&Rs." It also should include minutes from a year's worth of association meetings, a copy of the association's budget and a financial statement. Often, association newsletters are included as well.

San Jose condo owner David Zippin said he thinks reading an as-

sociation's newsletters is a good way to get familiar with community issues and to learn about the association's property management company "and whether they have their act together or not." Meeting minutes also are useful for this purpose.

Zippin and his partner, Tom Engels, bought their condo four years ago, despite the fact that the newsletters and other disclosures told them the association was in the process of suing the project's developer over water-related damage.

"The surprise is that it's lasted over four years. We didn't expect that," he said, referring to the lawsuit. Other than that, they've had no big surprises, although Zippin said he did not slog through every page of the rules they were given.

Chuck said few people bother to read more than a page or two of their CC&Rs, but they should read sections that seem pertinent to their lives. The documents can specify things like what color door a home can have, what color paint and trim, what kind of fencing can be used, how big a dog an owner can have, how many pets are allowed, even how big a party an owner can throw.

"I've seen CC&Rs that limit what children are allowed to do," Chuck said. Skateboarding might not be allowed, for example.

Robert Rosenberg, an executive with one of the largest property-management companies in northern California, said, "We have people who move into communities and really have no clue they can't play their music at 2 o'clock in the morning, and that's just a basic understanding of the governing documents."

He said sellers' agents should get the documents as soon as they get the listing, so buyers have plenty of time to read them.

"Everyone's always rushed around, and in the end I think the person that is short-changed is the buyer," he said.

Real estate agent Jeff Hansen agreed that buyers should ask about any rules that affect their daily lives.

Hansen, who specializes in selling downtown San Jose condos, said "the things that people are bothered by over time tend to be practical," like parking.

Some associations strictly limit guest parking or forbid street parking, for example. And in the Silver Creek Valley Country Club development, which is made up of single-family houses, association rules say that owners "can't have more cars than you can fit in your garage," said Bonnie Griffith, an agent with Windermere Silicon Valley who lives in the development.

Griffith also said prospective buyers should find out exactly what their association dues will cover. Water? Garbage service? Landscaping?

"They're all different, so that's an important question to ask," she said.

See ASSOCIATION, Page B15

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www.JennieAFlanigan.com

MASTER-PLANNED LIVING IN BRENTWOOD

It's all in the details, and Rose Garden is full of them. This spectacular master-planned community of four distinct single-family home neighborhoods in Brentwood boasts seven neighborhood parks, scenic trails and a nearly four-acre central park that includes a rose garden, gazebo and swim center. Not only are the homes beautifully designed, but they feature high speed connectivity to the Web and the latest building technologies. All this, and a location within minutes of Marsh Creek trails, exciting new shops and fine schools. Visit soon and see why everything's coming up roses in Brentwood.



• Central rose garden park

• High speed Internet connectivity

• 7 Neighborhood parks

• Gazebo and picnic areas

• Swim center

• Trail system



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New Home Releases this Weekend!



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New Release!
1,528-2,362 sq. ft.
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Approximate square footage; map not to scale.

Buzz Bertolero is Executive Vice President of Navlet's Garden Centers and a California Certified Nursery Professional. His Web address is www.dirtgardener.com and send questions by e-mail at dirtgardener@aol.com or to 360 Civic Drive Ste. D, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523.

association

PAGE B14

Buyers also should find out whether dues have gone up over the years. If not, that could be a sign of future trouble, because an aging community will certainly need main-

tenance, and the association may not have raised enough funds to cover it.

New buyers may be hit with steep increases in dues. "You can't say, 'Hey, I just got here and nobody told me,'" Chuck said.

Buyers should also check out what kind of insurance the associa-

tion has — does it have an earthquake policy, for example? And what are the deductibles?

Any pending or ongoing litigation should be disclosed. Buyers often shy away from condos that are part of construction-defect lawsuits because the legal action adds a layer of complexity to an already

daunting financial transaction.

"You're scared anyway, and then you hear, 'Oh, I'm part of a lawsuit,'" he said. Hansen last year bought into a condo association in downtown San Jose that is suing the builder over alleged construction defects.

He said a good aspect of the deal was that he knew exactly

what's wrong with the condo buildings, because experts have carefully examined them.

He also said values in the complex may rise once the litigation is complete. On the other hand, if the lawsuit doesn't go in the association's favor, owners will need to pay for repairs.

Knowing about pending litigation, dues and rules is a good start. But checking out the financial strength of an association is just as important, said Jacqueline Berry, president of Community Association Data Source in San Jose.

See ASSOCIATION, Page B18

3 New Listings



2541 DUNNIN AVE., RICHMOND

NORTH & EAST

#266-A great home at a great price. Located in a good Richmond neighborhood. Close to schools, transportation, and highways. One car attached garage.

OFFERED AT \$389,000



4316 ESSEX ST., EMERYVILLE

LIGHT & BRIGHT

#259-Beautiful upgraded home! New exterior paint. Two units on one lot-cottage in the rear. Two car detached garage. Fenced yard.

\$650,000



103 MADISON ST., ALBANY

#223-CHARMER-Beautifully remodeled home w/attached gar. Features dual pane windows, updated kit. stainless steel appliances. Refinished wood flooring throughout, work shed & fresh paint. Close to Solaro Ave., shops & restaurants. Easy access to freeway & transportation. Ready to move in.

\$549,000

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Oranges, Roses & Lemonade!



Beautifully appointed & freshly painted with lovely colors, this attractive Richmond home is in lovely condition with several upgrades. 2BD/1BA, formal entry area, spacious floor plan, lovely grounds w/roses, fruit trees & deck, 2 car detached garage and more. Offered at \$425,000.

Berkeley Brown Shingle Tripleplex



Rare brown shingle compound! There are 3 lovely units here, nicely nestled on a beautiful, landscaped lot. 4BD/2BA, 3BD/2BA front building & 2+BD/2BA spacious rear cottage. Condo-conversion application process already underway, or perfect for owner/occupant. \$1,450,000.

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1600 Hopkins Street, Berkeley 94707

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bubble.

Traditional family homes from the high \$400,000s

Now here's news that could have you bursting with excitement: At Gable Lane and Heritage, you'll find an impressive selection of traditional home designs in California's newest hometown, Mountain House. From family-minded floorplans to community parks and pedestrian-friendly tree-lined streets, both neighborhoods offer comfortable master-planned living just steps from the brand new Wicklund Elementary School. Open daily 10-5; except Wed. 1-5.



GABLE LANE

New Release!
From the high \$400,000s
1,398-2,341 sq. ft. homes
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2,773-2,981 sq. ft. homes
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NEW RELEASE AT GABLE LANE THIS WEEKEND • MASTER-PLANNED LIVING AT MOUNTAIN HOUSE

The Weekly Sales can be found in the Auto Section on page D3.

JUST SOLD



7269 Chabot Road, Oakland

Originally offered at \$680,000
14 offers - Represented the Buyers



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OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. Light-filled, gorgeous Craftsman with many original details! There is a large, private master bedroom at the top of the house. The garage has an office and a workshop. Great location near College Avenue shops and BART.

Offered at \$699,000



5440 Locksley Avenue, Oakland

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ERIKA CELESTRE
Office: 510.339.0400/252
ecelestre@grubbc.com



open sunday

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. A Piedmont treasure! Light dances through this lovely two-story traditional home located on a very sought-after street, near schools. The large level garden could be a gardeners delight. Three bedrooms and three baths.

Offered at \$1,150,000



201 Palm Drive, Piedmont

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PACIFIC UNION
GMAC Real Estate

OPEN SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, 2-4:30PM

REDWOOD HEIGHTS ~ PRIVATE COUNTRY SETTING IN THE CITY



A rare find in a delightful setting. Spacious one level living with tree views from every room. Totally remodeled kitchen including gorgeous pecan cabinetry, hardwood floors, stainless appliances and granite countertops. Incredible bath with Jacuzzi, new shower, and beautiful tile. Floorplan includes 2 large bedrooms, family room/home office, dining room, front deck, rear patio, workshop off 2-car garage.

3140 Guido Street, Oakland
Offered at \$699,000

Diane Earl McCan

510.338.1352

www.pacunion.com

Lee Jacobson

510.338.1309

PACIFIC UNION
GMAC Real Estate

NEW LISTING ~ ROSE GARDEN DISTRICT

OPEN SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, 2-4:30PM

Sophisticated 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo with designer colors, custom blinds, updated master bath, patio, verdant outlooks! Near Piedmont Avenue, Grandlake shops and cafes!

Offered at \$415,000



22 Moss Avenue #111, Oakland

Lorri Arazi

510.338.1330

www.LorriArazi.com

NEW LISTING ~ OPEN SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, 2-4:30PM

This extensively remodeled 4 bedroom, 3 bath Sequoyah Hills Bay view home features 2 master bedroom suites and a recently completed kitchen. The lower level master suite is a private retreat, complete with jetted spa tub. Custom paint colors, hardwood floors, two fireplaces, and open floor plan, gives it elegance and warmth. Must see!



Dee Knowland
510.338.1318



211 Sequoyah View Drive, Oakland
Offered at \$895,000

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*5.674% estimated annual percentage rate is based on \$359,650 loan amount + 1 pt. loan fee. Applicable closing costs will apply. 10/1 adjustable rate is based on 5.375% for the first year and then adjusted to market rate every year thereafter. Estimated payment on maximum conforming loan amount of \$359,650 is approximately \$1,740.00 per month. **5.125% estimated annual percentage rate is based on \$359,650 loan amount + 1 pt. loan fee. Applicable closing costs will apply. Loan term is for 15 years. ***5.75% estimated annual percentage rate is based on \$359,650 loan amount + 1 pt. loan fee. Applicable closing costs will apply. Loan term is for 30 years and subject to maximum loan amount of \$359,650. Estimated payment is \$2,318. Homeowners insurance is required.

Above programs are based on primary, single family residences, townhouses, and condominiums only. No prepayment penalty required. Cash out allowed up to 80% of loan value. Homeowners insurance is required.

5.315% estimated annual percentage rate is based on \$359,650 loan amount + 1 pt. loan fee. Applicable closing costs will apply. Loan term is for 15 years. *5.85% estimated annual percentage rate is based on \$359,650 loan amount + 1 pt. loan fee. Applicable closing costs will apply. Loan term is for 30 years and subject to maximum loan amount of \$359,650. Estimated payment is \$2,918. Homeowners insurance is required.

Estimated payment is \$2,918. Homeowners insurance is required.

Above programs are based on primary, single family residences, townhouses, and condominiums only. No prepayment penalty required. Cash out allowed up to 80% of loan value. Homeowners insurance is required.

PACIFIC UNION
GMAC Real Estate

OPEN SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, 2-4:30PM

REDWOOD HEIGHTS RETREAT



4053 Huntington Street,
Oakland

Madalyn Mitchell
925.253.6248

This delightful Redwood Heights home has 3 bedrooms, 2 baths and an amazing secluded deck great for entertaining or relaxing in the hot tub and sauna. Located on a friendly cul-de-sac, and nestled among mature trees, the home affords easy access to both Hwy. 13 and I-580. This home you've been waiting for!

Offered at \$619,000

mmitchell@pacunion.com
www.MadalynMitchell.com

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GMAC Real Estate

OPEN SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, 2-4:30PM

STUNNING VIEW HOME!

Exquisite 3+ bedroom, 3.5 bath Claremont home featuring many amenities, park-like grounds, attention to detail and so much more! And the VIEW!!! You'll never want to leave home again! See! For more information, please call 510.338.1309 or visit www.7089NorfolkRoad.com

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NEW KENSINGTON LISTING
OPEN SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, 2-4PM



259 Colusa Avenue, Kensington
Offered at \$525,000

Darling 2 bedroom, 1 bath cottage with vintage fireplace, refinished wood floors, fresh paint in and out, spacious deck, fabulous lawn and garden!

REDWOOD HEIGHTS
OPEN SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, 2-4:30PM



4044 Midvale Avenue, Oakland
Offered at \$629,000

Adorable cottage style home with SF and Bay views. Two spacious bedrooms, 2 baths including master bedroom suite. Random plank hardwoods in living room with handsome fireplace. Family/dining room off kitchen with deck. Plus room downstairs and attached garage. Deep lot - great space for gardening.

Sandi Klemmer
510.338.1314



Dick Cohen
510.338.1308

NEW OAKMORE LISTING
OPEN SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, 2-4:30PM



4162 Lyman Road, Oakland
Offered at \$659,000

Located on an extra large, lush lot, this lovely home is in the popular Oakmore area. A myriad of original details grace the enchanting interior and the exterior has beautiful patios, gardens and orchard space which presents endless opportunities for entertaining and relaxing. 2BR/1.5BA, formal living & dining rooms, updated kitchen & breakfast room, large plus room, converted garage.

PIEDMONT AVENUE DUPLEX



29-31 Rio Vista Avenue, Oakland
Offered at \$649,000

This charming home has welcomed Piedmont Avenue habitués since 1910. Whether they arrived by horse and buggy, Key System, or SUV, they likely enjoyed the light-filled rooms, coved ceilings, fireplace, hardwood floors, and much more. There's a cheerful backyard with garage too. And all in a lovely, historic neighborhood.

OPEN SUNDAY 2:00-4:30

SEQUOYAH HEIGHTS \$895,000

211 SEQUOYAH VIEW DR.

New Listing! Absolutely beautiful spacious 4BR/3BA level-in remodeled custom home. Recently completed kitchen, 2 master suites, hardwood floors, gorgeous location. Dee Knowland x1318



OAKMORE \$659,000

4162 LYMAN RD.

New Listing! 2BR, 1+BA, formal living & dining rooms, huge plus room, breakfast nook. Beautiful details. Fabulous lush oversized gardens & gorgeous patios. Sandi Klemmer x1314 & Dick Cohen x1308



PIEDMONT \$1,395,000

16 SCENIC AVE.
Adorable Piedmont Brown Shingle. 3+BR, 2BA, master suite with sitting room and walk-in closet, formal dining room with SF views, garden. Jane Strach x1322

\$1,395,000

**PIEDMONT
16 NACE AVE.**

(Open 2-5)
Ultra charming 2+BR/2BA Traditional. Gorgeous remodeled kitchen, formal dining room, office, rumpus room, sun porches & a deep yard with beautiful hill views. Vicki Woodhead x1334

REDWOOD HEIGHTS \$699,000

3140 GUIDO ST.

Spacious 2BR home with tree views. Beautifully remodeled kitchen & bath. Family room/home office, dining room, front deck, back patio, workshop off 2-car garage. Diane E. McCan x1352

UPPER LAUREL \$629,000

4044 MIDVALE AVE.

Adorable cottage style home w/SP & bay views. 2BR/2BA. Random plank hardwoods in living room, handsome fireplace. Family/dining room off kitchen. Deep lot. Diane E. McCan x1352

SAN LEANDRO \$612,000

2029 TROMBAS AVE.

(Open 1-4)
New Listing! Delightful home with flexible floor plan. Family room with private balcony, 3BR/2BA (including master suite), spacious kitchen, beautiful back yard. Michelle Miller x1335

PIEDMONT \$1,395,000

58 KINGSTON AVE.
Charming 4BR/2BA Mediterranean. Restored to the original details. Updated kitchen & bath, hardwood floors, formal dining room. French doors to yard. Ashley O'Neill x1368

**PIEDMONT
\$859,000**

(Open 2-5)
Ultra charming 2+BR/2BA Traditional. Gorgeous remodeled kitchen, formal dining room, office, rumpus room, sun porches & a deep yard with beautiful hill views. Vicki Woodhead x1334

MONTCLAIR \$669,000

24 JOAQUIN MILLER CT.

Charming 3BR home close to Montclair shopping, transportation & schools. Updated kitchen, formal dining room, hardwood floors, yard, 2-car garage. Wendy Gardner-Ferrari x1303

KENSINGTON \$525,000

259 COLUSA AVE.

(Open 2-4)
New Listing! Darling 2BR/1BA cottage with vintage fireplace, refinished wood floors, fresh paint in & out, spacious deck, fabulous lawn and garden. Christian Downer x1340

ROSE GARDEN \$415,000

22 MOSS AVE. #11

New Listing! Sophisticated 2BR/2BA condo with designer colors, custom blinds, updated master bath, patio, verdant outlooks! Near Piedmont Avenue & Grandlake shops & cafes. Lorri Arazi x1330

MONTCLAIR \$1,699,000

1100 MONTCLAIR

Charming two-plus bedrooms, one bath cottage set amidst flowering gardens and giant oak trees. Crown moldings, cathedral ceilings, fireplace & separate writer's studio. Fritz Hochfellner x1348

SHEFFIELD VILLAGE \$679,000

100 SHEFFIELD VILLAGE

Sunny & peaceful 3 bedroom, 2 bath home in a beautiful neighborhood. Extensively remodeled. Formal dining room, built-ins, hardwood floors, kitchen with granite counters, pretty yard. Michelle Miller x1335

PIEDMONT AVENUE \$649,000

1000 PIEDMONT AVENUE

Charming 1910 Craftsman duplex with light-filled rooms, coved ceilings, fireplace, hardwood floors, good-sized downstairs kitchen and much more. Cheerful backyard, garage. Joan Dark x1316

BERKELEY \$499,000

1000 10TH AVENUE

Major fixer - contractor special. North Berkeley location, on a slight down slope lot. Great bay view, 3BR/1BA, approximately 1434 square feet. Kathy Flynn x1317

BERKELEY \$1,350,000

1000 10TH AVENUE
2 houses on one lot: A lovely 5BR/4BA brown shingle w/ formal dining, hardwood floors. And a farm house w/bedroom, addition, eat-in kitchen. Great neighborhood. Michelle Vasey x1359

UPPER ROCKRIDGE \$1,995,000

Gorgeous 5BR/4BA custom home built in 1998 and updated in 2005. Gracious formal rooms, dramatic master suite, gourmet kitchen. Decks and a terraced garden offering privacy & views. Dee Knowland x1318

MONTCLAIR \$789,000

1000 MONTCLAIR
Delightful side of Montclair. Delightful neighborhood close to Montclair Village. Spacious living spaces & a fabulous large deck. 3BR/2BA, family room, plus space & room to expand. Sandi Klemmer x1314

NO BERKELEY price upon request

Charming and whimsical 2BR/1BA detached condo near BART & Ohlone Park. Beautiful softwood floors in the living room, kitchen & one bedroom. Wonderful secluded outdoor spaces. Jennie A. Flanigan x1354

EL CERRITO \$899,000

Newer tri-level contemporary in the El Cerrito hills near BART. 3BR/2.5BA w/vaulted ceilings, open floor plan and formal dining room. Spacious eat-in kitchen w/ granite counter tops. Deck w/views of Mt. Tam. Michelle Vasey x1359

BERKELEY price upon request

Cozy 2BR/1BA Westbrae condo alternative. Open living, dining room & kitchen leads to a large deck & yard. Updated kitchen & bath. Garage. Convenient to Westbrae shopping, Solano Ave. & Cafe Fanny. Jeffrey Himmel x1307

OAKLAND HILLS \$695,000

1000 10TH AVENUE

Very charming 3 bedroom, 2 bath home with South Bay views. Beautifully updated kitchen and dining area with access to enormous deck for outdoor entertaining. Refinished hardwood floors and fresh paint. A charmer! Ann Nichols x1319

NO BERKELEY price upon request

Beautiful 2BR/1BA detached "just like a single family home" condo in North Berkeley near BART & Ohlone Park. Gorgeous hardwood floors, fireplace, formal dining room. Large eat-in kitchen. Deck & yard. Jennie A. Flanigan x1354

NO BERKELEY price upon request

Cozy 2BR/1BA Westbrae condo alternative. Open living, dining room & kitchen leads to a large deck & yard. Updated kitchen & bath. Garage. Convenient to Westbrae shopping, Solano Ave. & Cafe Fanny. Jeffrey Himmel x1307

NO BERKELEY price upon request

Cozy 2BR/1BA Westbrae condo alternative. Open living, dining room & kitchen leads to a large deck & yard. Updated kitchen & bath. Garage. Convenient to Westbrae shopping, Solano Ave. & Cafe Fanny. Jeffrey Himmel x1307



Be sure to clean those gutters twice a year

BY ALAN J. HEAVENS
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

Q: How often should gutters be cleaned?

A: I'd recommend twice a year: in the spring and again in the fall. But that doesn't mean you shouldn't keep tabs on your gutters all year long. During the spring cleaning, check for any damage that might have been caused in winter by snow and accumulation of ice in the gutters.

Fall is a good time to remove leaves and other debris that started to fill the gutters as soon as the trees began shedding their leaves. Evergreens tend to shed their needles at different times, though, so if your house is surrounded by pine, spruce and similar trees, add a third gutter cleaning to your schedule.

If there's a downpour and rainwater pours over the edges of a gutter, that's a clear sign the gutter is blocked. Another sign: If it hasn't rained for a couple of days and you can still hear water dripping along the downspout, it means water is making its way slowly past a blockage.

When gutters are installed properly, they work properly. But even when the installation is correct, the weight of water and ice can knock them out of alignment - which can mean gutters that no longer slope properly and don't carry water directly to the downspouts. Get the necessary adjustments made - by the roofer who installed the gutters, if possible.

Q: What is the proper way to run central air conditioning?
Should I leave it on all summer, adjusting the temperature as needed, or turn it on the morning and off at night?

A: Continuous operation of a central air-conditioning system can be efficient - it's all the starts and stops that require additional energy. Eliminate those and the system will run at peak efficiency. Still, you don't want to waste energy by running the system at a constant temperature if you don't

have to. The answer is a programmable thermostat, which can be set for the times you want the house to be warmer or cooler.

You can program the thermostat to raise the temperature when you leave the house. Then, two hours or so before you return, the thermostat will begin lowering the temperature to, say, 74 degrees from 78. If you shut off the system when you leave and restart it when you return, it

will take a longer time and much more energy to overcome the heat that has built up.

Q: A piece of wood trim just below the edge of my porch roof is rotted. Someone told me that it was probably a 2-inch-by-6-inch board. When I went to replace it, I discovered that the new board was too thin and too narrow. What did I do wrong?

A: That piece of wood trim is called a fascia board; it's the

board to which a gutter is typically attached. If a 2-by-6 couldn't be used to replace the fascia, it's likely your house predates standard building codes. In the old days, a 2-inch-by-6-inch board was 2 inches thick by 6 inches wide; today, a 2-by-6 is actually 1 1/2 by 5 1/2 inches. The lesson here:

Always measure the piece you're replacing. You can overcome the half-inch difference by

having a lumberyard cut down a wider, thicker board to a true 2-by-6 using a table saw and a thickness planer. A carpenter can do the same thing and make the repair quickly.

I've made such repairs without a table saw or thickness planer. To compensate for the difference in thickness of the old and new boards, I cut pieces of lumber to fill the gap.

The pieces were only a half-inch thick, and if I had tried to drive a nail through them, I would have split them. Instead, I predrilled several holes in each

piece and then nailed through two of those rafters.

Then I marked the other holes on the board and predrilled the nails I hammered in; they did not split the pieces.

Have questions for Alan Heavens? Send them to Philadelphia Inquirer, 400 N. Broad St., Philadelphia 19101 or e-mail him at alans@phillynews.com.

A "MARK BECKER" ARCHITECTURAL MASTERPIECE!!



This stunning Tuscan-style, 5 bedroom, 4 bath, light and airy home is located in coveted Claremont Pines/Rockridge. Embraced by gorgeous views of San Francisco and exquisitely landscaped grounds. An exceptional home offering spectacular style and stunning details throughout. An elegant entry opens to the living room, complete with beautiful arched windows and a grand fireplace. The spacious gourmet kitchen is every cook's dream come true! Relax by the fireplace, in the private and spacious master bedroom suite. Superb location, just blocks from College Avenue, freeways and BART.

Beth Barger

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Close to Solano Avenue Shopping and Transportation

Charm of the 1920's!

Lovely Split-Level Home, 2 Bedrooms, 1 Bath, with hardwood floors & fireplace in living room, freshly painted interior and exterior, eat-in kitchen, new floor furnace. Lovely rear yard, 1-car attached garage. Some earthquake retrofitting. As-Is/Needs some work; shows well!



\$499,000

926 MASONIC AVENUE, ALBANY



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25 Portsmouth Road, Piedmont

Sunny Spacious Remodeled Craftsman

- Four bedrooms and two and one half+ baths
- Beautifully updated kitchen
- Office or Au Pair
- Family room opens to garden
- Professionally landscaped yard with waterfall
- Detached garage used as office

Offered at \$1,275,000

Open Sunday August 14, 2-5p.m.



coming soon

This charming traditional home sits on a cul-de-sac close to Montclair Village. With generous formal rooms, three + bedrooms, two baths, an updated eat-in kitchen, hardwood floors, an expansive private back garden and period details, this home has it all.

Price upon Request

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2 Diaz Place, Montclair

Privacy and Views in the Country



108 Via Floreado, Orinda

Striking contemporary with sweeping views, magnificent sunsets and wrap around deck. Floor-to-ceiling windows, hardwood floors, skylights and 3 fireplaces. 3 Bds/2Bths, library and eat in kitchen

Offered at \$995,000

Altie James Schmitt

PrevIEWS Property Specialist

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The Beaubelle Group Presents ... 820 Acalanes Rd., Lafayette



NEW CONSTRUCTION-EXQUISITE HACIENDA ESTATE IN LAFAYETTE.

This estate features 5 large bedrooms, 4 full and 2 half baths, sunroom, office, bonus room, plaster walls, custom cabinetry, and room for wine 4 acres+ w/sprawling oaks, pool site, outdoor verandas and panoramic Close proximity to transportation, shopping and Lafayette Reservoir.

Glenn & Kellie Beaubelle

Coldwell Banker's #1 Agent & Sales Group in Lamorinda: Lafayette • Moraga • Orinda

(925) 254-1212

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TheBeaubelleGroup.com

85th Anniversary The 19th Amendment Women's Right to Vote

From a document by Carrie Chapman Catt, 1910

"Let us raise up a League of Women Voters - non-partisan and non-sectarian and consecrate to three chief aims:

1. To obtain the full enfranchisement of women of our state and to reach out across the seas in aid of woman's struggle for her own in every land...
2. To remove the remaining legal discriminations against women in order that the feet of coming women find these stumbling blocks removed...
3. To make our democracy so safe for the nation and world that every citizen may feel secure and great will acknowledge the worthiness of the American republic to lead."



Women's Right to Vote has never been more important than it is today.

We're all in this together. Make a difference.

Association

FROM PAGE B15

That can be hard for an average buyer to do, though reviewing meeting minutes and budgets can help.

And as of July, all California homeowners associations will be required by law to project how well their reserve funds will cover maintenance needs for the next 30 years. For about \$300, Berry's company will review the disclosure documents provided to a buyer, make sure disclosures comply with the law and evaluate the financial fitness of the homeowners association. Her customers are mostly buyers and their agents, but sellers hire her too.

She says almost none of the disclosure packets she reviews are initially in compliance with the law on association disclosures, which is known as the Davis-Stirling Act. But "the financial health of the association is most critical to these people," she said. "To get hit with a large special assessment is devastating."

Berry said she recently reviewed a case in which homeowners were each assessed \$23,000 to pay for repairs that the association's reserve funds couldn't cover. Homeowners who don't or can't pay the special assessments may be fined for non-payment, and can even face foreclosure. So it's important that buyers know what kind of financial shape an association is in before they buy, she said.

Berry said associations whose reserves include at least 70 percent of what's needed to fund anticipated maintenance and repairs are unlikely to have to raise dues steeply in the near future. For associations whose reserves are leaner, homeowners are likely to face increases, she said.

"The value of the property is directly related to the value of the reserve and how well they're funding it," she said.

The Beaubelle Group presents... 17 Culver Court • Orinda



Open Sunday, 1-4

Beautiful Custom Estate behind private gates. The main residence features 4 bedrooms comprised of a large master suite, au-pair suite with attached play/family room and 3.5 stunning baths. There is a detached apartment with full bath, custom fireplace and wet bar. The 2.5 acres offers ancient oaks, expansive views, outdoor fireplace and stunning spa with waterfall.

Offered at \$2,850,000

Glenn & Kellie Beaubelle

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Julie Nachtwey

Your Residential Realtor
510.540.8743



Test your HKQ at free seminar

GALLAGHER & LINDSEY

What's your HKQ? That stands for Home Buying Knowledge. Did you know there is a lack of affordable housing, but a new tax credit is proposed to help more housing units? Will the FHA ever have a zero down payment product for borrowers?

Although the cost of financing remains historically low, housing prices continue to push higher. All indications say do not put off a home purchase. If you want to buy a home, but this is your first time, do you know where to start?

Attend "How To Buy Your First Home." This free workshop is held at Homewood Suites, on the Embarcadero, in Oakland. The address is 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday Aug. 20.

Gain information targeted to help first-time homebuyers. Find out if you qualify for a loan and how much house you can afford.

Learn about financing programs and homebuying strategies.

"Our Home Team Advantage" presents the seminar. The team members are Gallagher & Lindsey Realtors Paola Dimacali, Joe

Orario, Dave Hankel, Donnee

Marie, Mario Mariani, Wendy

and Mila Nakpil.

Additional team members include Mathew Tsang and Anh

Nguyen of Wells Fargo Bank,

Mark of Placer Title Company

and Jeffrey Schwalm of

Emerson's Insurance Group, who will

be on hand for home mortgage, ti-

tle and insurance questions.

These knowledgeable professionals work as a team in order to provide information on all aspects of the home buying process.

Several members on the team are bi-lingual and speak Chinese, Vietnamese and Tagalog. The workshop helps all buyers make the right decisions and could

save them thousands. Receive a free Homebuyer's Handbook, credit report and a gift. Stay after the workshop for a one-on-one consultation. Bring a guest, but you must pre-register, as seating is limited.

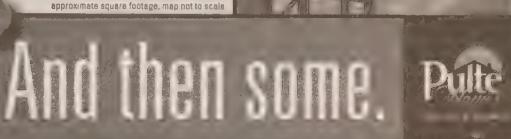
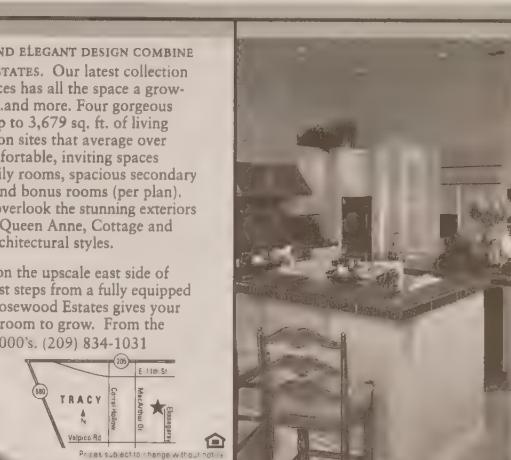
Reserve a spot by calling 510-865-4192 ext. 300 or visit www.GallagherAndLindsey.com.

To contact the real estate editor, call 510-748-1655.



Rosewood Estates

Room to grow.



And then some.

Pulte

SOARING SPACE AND ELEGANT DESIGN COMBINE AT ROSEWOOD ESTATES. Our latest collection of luxury residences has all the space a growing family needs...and more. Four gorgeous floorplans with up to 3,679 sq. ft. of living area are situated on sites that average over 8,000 sq. ft. Comfortable, inviting spaces include large family rooms, spacious secondary bedrooms, dens and bonus rooms (per plan). Plus, one cannot overlook the stunning exteriors in Normandy, Queen Anne, Cottage and Georgian architectural styles.

Located on the upscale east side of Tracy, just steps from a fully equipped park, Rosewood Estates gives your family room to grow. From the \$700,000's. (209) 834-1031

Map: Tracy, E 11th St, Cerrito, Vallejo Rd, Marconi Dr. Prices subject to change without notice, approximate square footage, map not to scale.

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OPEN SUNDAY 2:00PM – 4:30PM BY APPOINTMENT



175 VILLANOVA DRIVE \$1,695,000

Montclair. Stunning four year old Mediterranean on flat lot. Beautifully finished with hand-plastered walls and wood windows. Three plus bedrooms, three and a half baths, family room to level yard. Across from open space.

Mary Neuberger 531-7000 x251



8245 SKYLINE CIRCLE \$899,000

Oakland Hills. Beautiful two year old home with panoramic views. Three bedrooms, two and a half baths, den or office. Gourmet kitchen with granite counters, island and pantry. Two car attached garage.

Jaya Bhimani 531-7000 x289



6435 AND 6437 IRWIN COURT \$829,000

North Oakland. Charming Renovated Duplex! Both units three bedrooms, two baths. Both units vacant, bonus historical water tower. Great location. Near U.C. Berkeley and College Avenue.

Kelly Klinger 531-7000 x236



8926 THERMAL STREET \$575,000

Oakland. Price Reduced! Beautiful and sunny three bedroom, two bath on quiet street with Bay views. Updated kitchen, dining room, spacious living room with fireplace, hardwood floors. Seller Motivated. Open Saturday 2-4:30 and Sunday.

Rita Robinson 531-7000 x241



6435 AND 6437 IRWIN COURT \$829,000

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Kelly Klinger 531-7000 x236



WALNUT CREEK (925) 938-8484

LAKE TAHOE RENTAL/SALES (800) 858-2463 www.tahoerentals.com

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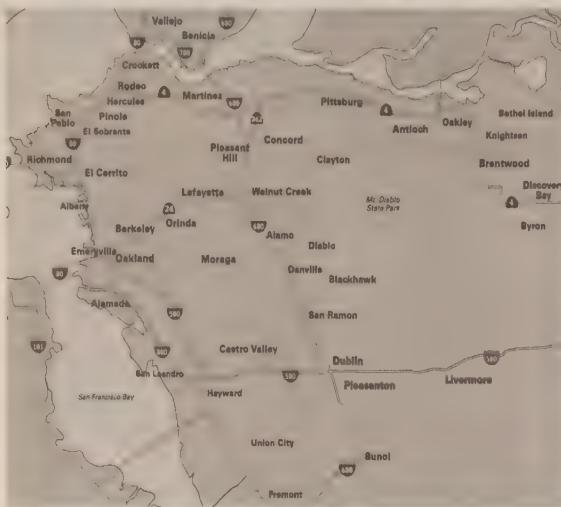
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Alameda

| | | | | | |
|-------------|--------------------|-----------|-----------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| \$580,000 | 1225 Broadway | 2 Units | Central | 510-814-4839 | Bill Douglas |
| Sun 2-4 | 219 D Cypress | 1 BD/1 BA | West End | 510-814-4836/522-9600 | Harbor Bay Realty |
| Sat/Sun 2-4 | 1084 Jost Ave. | 2bd/2ba | Townhouse | 510-919-5485 | Marvin Gardens |
| Sun 2-4 | 1519 Central Ave | 2 BD/2 BA | East End | 510-521-1630 | Bayside Real Estate |
| Sun 2-4 | 3 Mastick Court | 2 BD/1 BA | West End | 510-748-1121 | Gallagher & Lindsey |
| Sun 2-4 | 1237 Broadway | 2BD/1BA | Central | 510-814-4839 | Bill Douglas |
| Sat/Sun 2-4 | 1104 Peach St | 3BD/1BA | | 510-912-3942/415-230-0152 | Kane & Associates |
| Sun 2-4 | 2525 San Jose Ave. | 2 BD/1 BA | East End | 510-522-5827 | Bayside Real Estate |
| Sun 2-4 | 1022 Doris Ct | 2 BD/1 BA | East End | 510-522-7173 | Bev Williams |

Alameda

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|-----------|----------------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| \$599,000 | 1827 St. Charles St. | 3 BD/1 BA | Central | 510-333-8897 | Alameda Realty |
| \$599,000 | 1843 8th St. | 2 BD/1 BA | Central | 510-814-4871 | Harbor Bay Realty |
| \$599,000 | 340 Lincoln Ave. | 3 BD/1 BA | Central | 510-681-5249 | Alameda Realty |
| \$635,000 | 17 Breahut Ct | 2BD/2.5BA | Central | 510-297-5005 | Kane & Associates |
| \$639,000 | 1713 Oak Street | 3+BD/1.5 BA | Central Alameda | 510-748-1108 | Gallagher & Lindsey |
| \$639,000 | 2511 Eagle Avenue | 2+BD/2 BA | East End | 510-748-1162 | Gallagher & Lindsey |
| \$649,000 | 1227 Porta Ballena | 3 BD/2 BA | East End | 510-865-2525 | Keller Williams |
| \$649,000 | 2051 Eagle Avenue | 4BD/2.5BA | East End | 510-332-7077 | Mekong Realty & Mortgage, Inc. |
| \$649,000 | 2860 Jackson St | 3 BD/1 BA | East End | 510-814-4871/814-4814 | Harbor Bay Realty |
| \$649,000 | 402 Haight Ave | 3 BD/2 BA | West End | 510-814-4869 | Harbor Bay Realty |
| \$649,500 | 1126 Mound Street | 2BD/1BA | East End | 510-748-1108 | Gallagher & Lindsey |

Alameda

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|-----------|-------------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| \$659,000 | 2604 Otis Drive | 3 BD/1 BA | East End | 510-814-4888 | Steve Sorensen |
| \$665,000 | 1725 Lafayette St | 2 BD/1 BA | Central | 510-814-4888/814-4859 | Harbor Bay Realty |
| \$670,000 | 313 Launa Vista | 2BD/2BA | Central | 510-69-1845 | Kane & Associates |
| \$675,000 | 22 Rutland Ct. | 2 BD/2.5 BA | Harbor Bay Isle | 510-882-5232 | Harbor Bay Realty |
| \$699,000 | 1008 Pacific Ave | 3 BD/2 BA | Central | 510-814-4863 | Harbor Bay Realty |
| \$699,000 | 3515 Silva Ln. | 3BD/2.5BA | Central | 510-814-4887 | Harbor Bay Realty |
| \$699,000 | 563 Country Isle | 4 BD/3 BA | South Shore | 510-814-4813/814-4858 | Harbor Bay Realty |
| \$718,000 | 167 Orr Road | 3BD/2.5BA | Central | 510-814-1676 | Kane & Associates |

Alameda

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|-------------|-------------------|-------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------------------------|
| \$898,500 | 633 Rock Isle | 3 BD/2 BA | South Shore | 510-814-4817 | Steve Sorensen |
| \$899,000 | 16 Vista Road | 4BD/3BA | Central | 510-333-8223 | Mekong Realty & Mortgage, Inc. |
| \$949,000 | 2811 Windsor Dr. | 3 BD/2.5 BA | Fernside Marina | 510-814-4800 | Harbor Bay Realty |
| \$1,190,000 | 216 Sweet Road | 4 BD/2.5 BA | Harbor Bay Isle | 510-814-4897 | Janet Iverson |
| \$1,396,000 | 612 Fortress Isle | 4+BD/3+BA | So. Shore | 510-769-0581 | Century 21 LandMark Excellence |
| \$1,789,000 | 1712 Palmera Ct. | 4 BD/3 BA | Gold Coast | 510-814-6714 | Barbara Bolton |
| \$2,480,000 | 26 Castlebar Pl. | 4 BD/5 BA | Harbor Bay Isle | 510-814-4861 | Susan Battaglia |

Albany

| | | | | | |
|-----------|---------------------|-------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| \$399,000 | 855 Pierce St. #620 | 1+bd/2ba | Open Sun. 2-4 | 510-932-3538 | Red Oak Realty |
| \$719,500 | 410 Lagunaria | 3 BD/2.5 BA | Open Sun. 2-4 | 510-292-2013 | Red Oak Realty |
| \$729,000 | 1252 Hawthorne St. | 3 BD/1 BA | Open Sun. 2-4 | Todd Andrew | Red Oak Realty |
| \$739,000 | 18 Cotella Court | 3BD/2BA | Open Sun. 2-4 | 510-466-9991 | Diane Deutsche, Jeans-Reality.com |
| \$749,000 | 926 Masonic | 2bd/1ba | Open Sun. 2-4 | 510-334-1355 | Marvin Gardens |
| \$749,000 | 3321 Central Ave | 3 BD/2 BA | Open Sun. 2-4 | 510-51-7000/246 | Stam Hammont |
| \$749,000 | 314 Ironwood Dr. | 3 BD/2.5 BA | Open Sun. 2-4 | 510-524-9888/33 | Wells & Bennett Realtors |
| \$749,000 | 712 Taylor Ave. | 4 BD/2 BA | Open Sun. 2-4 | 510-84-4832 | Berkley Hills Realty |
| \$759,000 | 311 Central Ave | 3 BD/1 BA | Open Sun. 2-4 | 415-986-6312 | North Beach Properties |
| \$779,000 | 3045 Windsor Dr. | 3BD/1.5BA | Open Sun. 2-4 | 510-527-5741 | Rick Durazzo |

Berkeley

| | | | | | |
|-----------|-----------------------|-----------|------------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| \$499,000 | 1919 Virginia St. | 3BD/2BA | Open Sun. 1-5pm | 510-336-9999 | Agent |
| \$820,000 | 3260 Central Avenue | 3 BD/2 BA | Open Sun. 2-4:30 | 510-814-4825 | Wells & Bennett Realtors |
| \$839,000 | 1019 Taylor Ave. | 3+BD/2 BA | Open Sun. 2-4 | 510-814-4832 | Moon Tam |
| \$839,000 | 1417 St. Charles | 2 Units | Open Sun. 2-4 | 510-814-4815 | Gallagher & Lindsey |
| \$859,000 | 1312 San Antonio Ave. | 3+BD/2 BA | Open Sun. 2-4 | 510-681-5249 | Gallagher & Lindsey |
| \$869,000 | 2134 Lincoln Ave. | 3 Units | Open Sun. 2-4 | 510-814-4819 | Chuck & Nancy Blanch |
| \$399,000 | 2910 Hillgass Ave. #1 | 1bd/1ba | Open Sun. 2-4:30 | 510-339-9290 | Tami Bobb |
| \$475,000 | 1660 La Loma Ave. | 2bd/1ba | Open Sun. 2-4:30 | 510-527-5741 | Re/Max Executive |
| \$485,000 | 1115 Harrison Street | 1+BD/1BA | Open Sun. 2-4:30 | 510-655-2330 | Jan Fougner |
| \$495,000 | 1335 Ashby Ave. | Duplex | Open Sun. 2-4 | 510-292-2034 | Red Oak Realty |

Brentwood

| | | | | | |
|-----------|-----------------------|-----------|------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| \$484,000 | 1919 Virginia St. | 3BD/2BA | Open Sun. 2-4:30 | 510-527-5741 | Red Oak Realty |
| \$399,000 | 1607 62nd St. | 2BD/1.5BA | Open Sun. 2-4:30 | 510-531-7000/292 | Wells & Bennett Realtors |
| \$399,000 | 2910 Hillgass Ave. #1 | 1bd/1ba | Open Sun. 2-4:30 | 510-339-9290 | Tami Bobb |
| \$475,000 | 1660 La Loma Ave. | 2bd/1ba | Open Sun. 2-4:30 | 510-527-5741 | Re/Max Executive |
| \$485,000 | 1115 Harrison Street | 1+BD/1BA | Open Sun. 2-4:30 | 510-655-2330 | Jan Fougner |
| \$495,000 | 1335 Ashby Ave. | Duplex | Open Sun. 2-4 | 510-292-2034 | Red Oak Realty |

El Cerrito

| | | | | | |
|-------------|--------------------------|----------|----------------------|--------------|----------------|
| \$519,000 | 7247 Lincoln Ave. | 1+BD/1BA | Open Sun. 1-5pm | 510-339-9290 | Red Oak Realty |
| \$895,000 | 2631 Torrey Pines Dr. | 2+BD/1BA | Open Sat. & Sun. 1-4 | 510-292-2034 | David Valdez |
| \$1,150,000 | 956 Arlington Ave. | 2+BD/1BA | Open Sun. 2-4:30 | 510-292-2034 | Red Oak Realty |
| \$1,695,000 | 7112 Marlborough Terrace | 3+BD/2BA | Open Sun. 2-4:30 | 510-292-2034 | Red Oak Realty |
| \$1,950,000 | 69 Parnassus Rd. | 4+BD/3BA | Open Sun. 2-4 | 510-292-2034 | Red Oak Realty |

C21 Heritage

| | | | | | |
|-------------|--------------------------|----------|----------------------|--------------|----------------|
| \$519,000 | 7247 Lincoln Ave. | 1+BD/1BA | Open Sun. 1-5pm | 510-339-9290 | Red Oak Realty |
| \$895,000 | 2631 Torrey Pines Dr. | 2+BD/1BA | Open Sat. & Sun. 1-4 | 510-292-2034 | David Valdez |
| \$1,150,000 | 956 Arlington Ave. | 2+BD/1BA | Open Sun. 2-4:30 | 510-292-2034 | Red Oak Realty |
| \$1,695,000 | 7112 Marlborough Terrace | 3+BD/2BA | Open Sun. 2-4:30 | 510-292-2034 | Red Oak Realty |
| \$1,950,000 | 69 Parnassus Rd. | 4+BD/3BA | Open Sun. 2-4 | 510-292-2034 | Red Oak Realty |

El Cerrito

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| \$1,695,000 | 7112 Marlborough Terrace | 3+BD/2BA | Open Sun. 2-4:30 | 510-292-2034 | Red Oak Realty |
| \$1,950,000 | 69 Parnassus Rd. | 4+BD/3BA | Open Sun. 2-4 | 510-292-2034 | Red Oak Realty |

C21 Heritage

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| \$1,150,000 | 956 Arlington Ave. | 2+BD/1BA | Open Sun. 2-4:30 | 510-292-2034 | Red Oak Realty |
| \$1,695,000 | 7112 Marlborough Terrace | 3+BD/2BA | Open Sun. 2-4:30 | 510-292-2034 | Red Oak Realty |
| \$1,950,000 | 69 Parnassus Rd. | 4+BD/3BA | Open Sun. 2-4 | 510-292-2034 | Red Oak Realty |

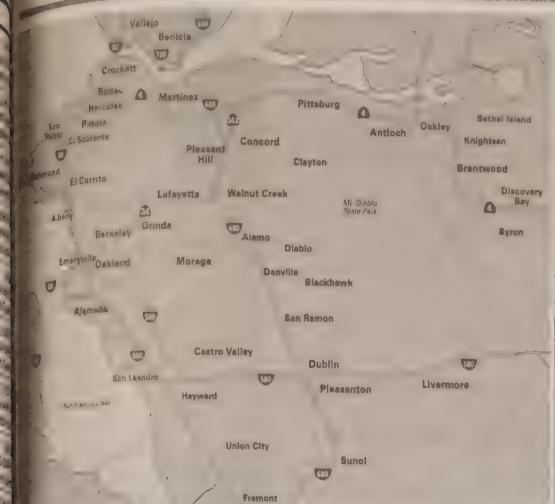
El Cerrito

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|-----------|-------------------|----------|-----------------|---|
| \$519,000 | 7247 Lincoln Ave. | 1+BD/1BA | Open Sun. 1-5pm | 5 |
|-----------|-------------------|----------|-----------------|---|

Weekend OPEN HOMES

Open Sunday, unless otherwise indicated

www.contracostatimes.com



Oakland

| | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| \$595,000 | 2411 Humboldt Ave. | Duplex |
| Open Sun. 2-4:30 | Lower Laurel | 510-339-4000 |
| Better Homes Montclair | Jim Schubert | |
| \$595,000 | 6151 Oakdale | 4BD/2BA |
| Sun 2-4 | Millsmont | 510-748-1161 |
| Gallagher & Lindsey, Inc. | Jim Nations | |
| \$599,000 | 4538 Reinhardt Dr. | 2BD/2BA |
| Open Sun. 2-4:30 | Redwood Heights | 510-482-9000 |
| Better Homes Montclair | PatriciaBennett.net | |
| \$599,000 | 4601 Manilla | 2BD/1BA |
| Open Sun. 2-4:30 | Temescal | 510-848-1950x240 |
| Thornwall Properties | Colleen Larkin | |
| \$599,000 | 7373 Saroni | 2+BD/1BA |
| Open Sun. 1-5 | Montclair | 510-273-9923 |
| Re/Max E.Bay Hills | Rick & Ernie | |
| \$619,000 | 4053 Huntington St. | 3BD/2BA |
| Open Sun 2-4:30 | | 510-338-1317 |
| Pacific Union GMAC | Kathy Flynn | |
| \$629,000 | 26 Ramona Lane | 3BD/1BA |
| Open Sun. 2-4:30 | Piedmont Ave. | 510-339-4550 |
| Better Homes Montclair | Nahid Nassir | |
| \$629,000 | 4044 Midvale | 2BD/2BA |
| Open Sun 2-4:30 | Redwood Heights | 510-338-1352 |
| Pacific Union | Diane E. McCann | |
| \$649,000 | 384 Palm Ave | 2+BD/3+BA |
| Open Sun 2-5 | | 510-336-9999 |
| ASSIST-2-SELL | | |
| \$649,000 | 4965 Desmond St. | 2+BD/1BA |
| Open Sun. 2-5 | Lower Rockridge | 510-868-1554 |
| Prudential | Anita Becker | |
| \$649,000 | 55 Chadbourn Wy. | 3+BD/2BA |
| Open Sun 2-4:30 | Crestmont | 510-339-0400 |
| The Grubb Co. | Michael Friedman | |
| \$659,000 | 4162 Lyman | 2+BD/1+BA |
| Open Sun 2-4:30 | Oakmore | 510-338-1314/338-1306 |
| Pacific Union | Sandi Klemmer/Dick Cohen | |
| \$669,000 | 24 Joaquin Miller Ct. | 3BD/1.5BA |
| Open Sun 2-4:30 | Montclair | 510-338-1303 |
| Wells & Bennett Realtors | Wendy Gardner-Ferrari | |
| \$672,000 | 5324 Bryant Ave. | 2BD/1BA |
| Open Sun 2-4:30 | | 510-899-8000 |
| Alain Pinel Realtors | S. Stratton/C. Brey | |
| \$675,000 | 4462 39th AVE. | 2BD/1BA |
| SUN 1-4 | Redwood Heights | 510-886-8939 |
| AGENT | Dean Okamura | |
| \$680,000 | 4266 Knoll Ave. | 3BD/2BA |
| Open Sun. 2-5 | | 415-344-4703 |
| Fresco Prop. Inc. | Gordon Yamamoto | |
| \$689,000 | 3140 Guido St. | 2BD/1BA |
| Open Sun 2-4:30 | Redwood Heights | 510-338-1309 |
| Pacific Union | Lee Jacobson | |
| \$699,000 | 469 McAuley St | Duplex |
| Open Sun 2-5 | | 510-428-0900 |
| Prudential | Scott Thompson | |
| \$739,000 | 6371 Sunnymere | 3BD/1.5BA |
| Open Sun 2-4:30 | | 510-339-4700 |
| Coldwell Banker | Antonia "Noni" Robinson | |
| \$889,000 | 2922 Morgan | 2BD/1BA |
| Open Sun. 1-4 | | 510-292-2014 |
| Red Oak Realty | Stacey Merriman | |
| \$390,000 | 4099 Howe St. #203 | 2bd/1ba |
| Open Sun. 1-4 | | 510-848-0110 |
| Help-U-Sell Berkeley | Jeri Curry | |
| \$349,000 | 4218 Aqua Vista St. | 2BD/1BA |
| Open Sun 2-4 | | 510-899-8000 |
| Alain Pinel Realtors | S. Arballo & J. Montague | |
| \$369,000 | 250 Montecito #203 | 1+BD/1BA |
| Open Sun 2-4:30 | | 510-339-9205 |
| Prudential | John F. Bell | |
| \$315,000 | 551 Jean St. #205 | 1bd/1ba |
| Open Sun 2-5 | Rose Garden | 510-834-2010 |
| Prudential | | |
| \$320,000 | 6304 Monadnock Wy. | 2BD/1BA |
| Open Sun 2-4:30 | Millsmont | 510-531-7000x295 |
| Prudential | Heidi Kearsley | |
| \$380,000 | 558 Clayton Ave. | 3BD/2BA |
| Open Sun 2-4:30 | | 510-486-1495 |
| Prudential | Gene Della Maggiora | |
| \$400,000 | 717 Bala Dr. | 5bd/2ba |
| Open Sun 2-4:30 | | 510-849-9900 |
| Prudential | Scott Ward | |
| \$300,000 | 1001 Richmond St. | 3bd/2ba |
| Open Sun 1-4 | | 510-703-6542 |
| Prudential | Daniel Lopez | |
| \$400,000 | 2721 Del Monte | 3+bd/2ba |
| Open Sun 2-4:30 | | 510-620-3075 |
| Prudential | Rony Atme | |
| \$400,000 | 588 Clayton Ave. | 3BD/2BA |
| Open Sun 2-4:30 | | 510-486-1495 |
| Prudential | Gene Della Maggiora | |
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| Prudential</ | | |

ALAMEDA



18 COTELLA COURT \$739,000
Harbor Bay Open Sat & Sun 2-4
This sunny single level home located on great cul-de-sac is a must see. Mediterranean with 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, professionally landscaped with fishpond and waterfall. Also comes with 2 car attached garage and is close to park, ferry and lagoon!

www.GallagherandLindsey.com
Moon Tam 510-747-1620
Eric Tam 510-748-1135



1019 TAYLOR AVENUE \$839,000
West End Open Sat & Sun 2-4
Queen Anne ready to sparkle. Victorian legal duplex used as single family home with separate living unit. Many architectural details. 2 units, 2 kitchens, 2 living rooms, 2 full baths, 2 half baths, 2 garages, 4 bedrooms. High ceilings, tall windows, newly refinished wood floors. Many bonus rooms with room for expansion in full basement. Waiting for Victorian lover to restore its glory.

www.GallagherandLindsey.com
Pacita Dimacali 510-748-1148



1126 MOUND STREET \$649,500
East End Open Sat & Sun 2-4
First time open on this updated 2 bedroom, 1 bath East End location home. New roof, foundation, refinished hardwood floors, central heating with air conditioning, freshly painted interior, new dual pane windows, must see, won't last long.

www.GallagherandLindsey.com
Bill & Griselda Bissell 510-748-1138



1713 OAK STREET \$639,000
Central Alameda Open Sat & Sun 2-4
This 3+ bedroom and 1.5 bath home shows pride of ownership. This home supports a newer foundation, roof, gutters/downspouts, freshly painted throughout, new carpeting upstairs and the grounds have been freshly landscaped. It has a brick fireplace in living room. Close to transportation and Park Street. Move-in condition!

www.GallagherandLindsey.com
Bill & Griselda Bissell 510-748-1108



3260 CENTRAL AVENUE \$820,000
East End Open Sat & Sun 2-4
Well kept 3 bedroom, 2 bath home. Built-in china cabinet. Newly remodeled kitchen with Zodiac counter top. Large front and back yard. Solar system attached 2 car garage with long driveway. Must see!

www.GallagherandLindsey.com
Moon Tam 510-747-1620
Eric Tam 510-748-1135



2311 EAGLE AVENUE \$639,000
East End Open Sat & Sun 2-4
This home located at the East End of Alameda has been updated from top to bottom. Roof, foundation, carpets, plumbing, electrical, double pane windows, water heater are all new. 2+ bedroom and 2 bath home in a quiet cul-de-sac. Freshly painted interior and exterior. There is a private outdoor area for children to play, BBQ or enjoying your morning coffee.

www.GallagherandLindsey.com
Chih Wu 510-748-1162

SPORTS

• Friday, August 12, 2005 •

Section C

Plenty turn out for a good cause in Alameda event

Nearly 1,200 runners and walkers take part in the annual Run for the Parks.

By Shane Carney

Correspondent

On Sunday morning at 8:30, many people are just waking up or are still in bed sleeping. For the 1,175 registered runners and walkers at Alameda's 24th annual Run for the Parks, 8:30 signaled the start of their race.

As the runners waited anxiously at the starting line on Shoreline Drive, the sun gleamed off the bay that lay a mere 20 to 30 feet away from where the runners began the race. The sun provided a morning warmth that proved to be comfortable for the runners throughout the morning.

The crowded starting line witnessed a few trips and stumbles, but the race began on time to the

delight of those present. By 8:45, the top finishers of the 2.2-mile race finished their mornings strong. Seventeen minutes later, Ben Turman of Berkeley, the top finisher in the featured event, the 10-kilometer (approximately 6.2 miles), ended his race with a time of 32 minutes, 33 seconds.

The runners and walkers were both males and females of all ages. The majority of the runners competing call Northern California their home, but the race gets its share of out-of-towners every year as well.

"Some people who are really serious about running make the drive to race here, while some people are in the area on vacation and decide to come it out. Every year, we get a few runners from other states as well," said Fred Framsted, a recreational supervisor for Alameda Recreation and Parks.

The race has many return runners each year who enjoy the



HEIDI HUBER/STAFF

NEARLY 1,200 took part in the 24th running of the Run for the Parks in Alameda. The proceeds go to a number of causes, including the Parks and Recreation Department.

event and the course. The 2.2-mile race runs along the beach with the San Francisco skyline in the distance. The 10K course, consisting of tiny rolling hills and stretches of flat ground, leads the runners around the Island of

Alameda.

The 1,175 registered runners who competed Sunday morning paid a \$25 registration fee to run (\$20 for early registrants). The money raised by Run for the Parks goes into the Alameda

Recreation and Parks fund, where it is then distributed to several different causes.

"Some of the money will go to scholarships for kids who participate in Recreation and Parks activities, and some of the money will help to pay for those activities and other amenities the parks need," Framsted said.

As the race ended, a crowd gathered for the awards ceremony at the South Shore Center. The runners were congratulated on finishing the race and were thanked for helping raise money for a worthy cause.

The top three finishers in each age division were brought up on stage and were given bronze, silver, and gold medals. The overall male winner, Turman, and the overall female winner, Kara June of Alameda (36:34), each received a special engraved clock.

The top three male finishers

See RUN, Page 2



HEIDI HUBER/STAFF

BEN TURMAN of Berkeley crossed the finish line first at the 24th Run for the Parks.

YOUTH RESULTS

SOFTBALL

Last week, 11 proud middle school girls made local sporting history when the 12-under Sting Blue became the first team representing the Albany-Berkeley Girls Softball League to play in an Amateur Softball Association national tournament. When all was finished, the Sting Blue had earned 17th place at the ASA Western nationals at Mt. Vernon, Wash.

Sting's journey to Washington was fulfilled by lofty goal the players set for themselves at the beginning of the season and marked a coming of age for a league more than two decades old.

Aiming as Pacific Region co-champions, Sting joined an elite group of 49 of the best teams from 11 states (Eastern U.S. teams and an eastern national). Teams came as far away as Oklahoma, Texas, Arizona, Montana, New Mexico, and California in the week-long, double-elimination tournament.

On day one, Sting achieved immediate success, winning both of their games and advancing to the round of

Sting showed they belonged, playing with skill, poise and effort in the company of many championship teams.

On day two, Sting suffered their loss, beaten by the eventual fifth-place team.

Day three was elimination day. Seven teams lost for the second time and were ousted from the tournament. Sting included. Sting's 2-2 record was good for 17th place.

Sting 10, Auburn Air Attack 4: Coming some nerves, Sting trailed 4-2. But pitcher Kelsey Murakami struck out 10 and scattered six hits. Her defense kept things in check. Sting bats came alive in the third inning. Meagan Tokunaga drove in two of Sting's first four runs, including a 4-1 cushion.

Later runs by Sabina Khan and Anna Smithers completed the scoring. Sting pulled away to a comfortable round win over a game team from Washington state. The game marked Sting's first experience with an out-of-state squad.

See YOUTH, Page 2



JOANNA JHANDA/STAFF

ANTHONY SANDBERG founded the Olympic Circle Sailing Club in 1979. Today it's the largest single-location sailing school in the United States.

Clear sailing for East Bay school

Sandberg wants to do for his sport what others have done for skiing

By Ann Tatko-Peterson

STAFF WRITER

Waves crash over the bow of the sailboat, spraying cold bay water in every direction. A sharp wind, blowing at 18 knots, fills the sails and sweeps over skin warmed earlier by the sun.

The sailboat measures almost 35 feet long. It costs about a quarter million dollars. And on this cool August day, it tilts at a seemingly precarious 45-degree angle, the starboard hull practically submerged in the water, the boat rocketing through every wave that stands in its path.

The scene might look and feel like a maelstrom, if not for Anthony Sandberg.

Anthony Sandberg.

A dark blue cap pulled low, the collar of his waterproof red jacket pulled high, Sandberg, 56, sits nestled in the corner of the stern. He stretches his long legs across the back of the boat, a Diet Coke in one hand, his eyes scanning the horizon as he chats casually about a recent trip to Turkey.

The scene looks and feels like just another day at sea. For Anthony Sandberg, that's exactly what it is.

In 1979, Sandberg turned a municipal dump into a sailing school on the Berkeley Marina. He started with only a small, rotated dock box, a borrowed boat and a phone. Money was so tight that he lived out of his van at the marina.

More than 25 years later, OCSC Sailing (Olympic Circle

A CLOSER LOOK

■ WHAT: Olympic Circle Sailing Club (OCSC)

■ WHERE: Berkeley Marina

■ SCHOOL: Classes certify students to bareboat charter anywhere in the world. The school also offers an on-water introduction course to acquaint prospective students with the sport.

■ MEMBERSHIP: Standard membership costs \$595 initiation fee and \$59 monthly dues. Associate membership (when sponsored by a standard member) costs \$395 initiation fee and

\$39 monthly dues. Membership provides discounts on classes and gear, ability to charter from OCSC's fleet of 50 yachts, access to an online list of available skippers and crewmates and free access to social activities.

■ FOR MORE INFORMATION: Visit the club's Web site at ocscsailing.com or call 1-800-223-2984. The club also hosts a free barbecue the first Wednesday and third Saturday of every month to introduce itself to potential members and students.

Sailing Club) has grown into the largest single-location sailing school in the United States. It sits on 10,000 square feet of prime waterfront property and maintains a fleet of 50 boats worth

\$4.5 million. Along with partner Rich Jepsen, the chief executive officer, Sandberg oversees a staff of 75 employees, including 45 instructors.

OCSC also boasts of 1,000

dues-paying club members and a growing revenue base estimated at \$2.5 million for this year. Two percent of the business' gross revenue goes to support environmental and social issues.

From a factual standpoint, those numbers outline the success of OCSC Sailing. But long before he saw any such numbers, Sandberg knew the business would prosper.

"You need an essential core, which is the sport itself," he said. "Just look at skiing. It grew from rope tows to gondolas, from rustic cabins to lodges. Every great industry explodes from an essential sport."

Sailing had one inherent problem: debunking the myth that it's a sport for only the wealthy and the strong.

See SAILING, Page 2

WHAT'S HAPPENING

To submit an item to the What's Happening calendar, e-mail sports@cc-times.com to request a form. Put "What's Happening" in the subject line. Nonprofit organizations only. You may be asked to submit a copy of your 1099 or 501(c)3 to verify nonprofit status. Entries are edited for content and are published as space is available.

BASKETBALL

■ Hoop Games 2005 — 3-on-3 Tournament for male and female teams Oct. 1 at Vallejo Waterfront to benefit the Hoop Games Basketball Association that assists Bay Area youth in education. Divisions 10U, 13U, 16U and 18U. \$125 per team if registered before Aug. 31. 707-534-2296.

■ Piedmont High School Clinic — Shooting clinic for boys and girls ages 7-18 noon-3 p.m. and 3:15-6:15 p.m. Sept. 11 at Piedmont High School gym, 800 Magnolia Ave., Piedmont. \$60. 510-433-2600 or cpl@clip.com.

■ Excellence in Basketball — Currently taking sign-ups for competitive boys club teams, grades 6-12, that play squads from throughout the East Bay. Scholarships offered for hardship cases. Bob 925-736-8741, elbcoach@aol.com.

■ Rodeo Softball — Car wash fundraiser to benefit 14U team 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Aug. 13 at Home Depot, Hercules. Raising funds for 2006 tourna-

ments in Southern California, Florida and Hawaii. Cars \$5, trucks, vans and SUVs \$10. Jackie Crippen, 510-724-7619.

■ Unity in the Community Golf Tournament — Tournament to benefit "Positive Directions Equals Change," Sept. 17, 10 a.m., at Chuck Corica Golf Complex, Alameda. Proceeds go to addressing drug, alcohol and violence issues in some African American communities in the East Bay. \$120 includes lunch, golf cart and prizes. Cedric Akbar, 415-401-0199 or 415-5587; Lee Boone, 415-740-5591.

■ Kidfest — Multi-activity day for ages 18 months to 9 years. 9-12 p.m. Aug. 27 Bladum Sports and Fitness Club, 800 West Tower Ave., Alameda. Activities include: rock wall climbing, baseball batting cages, volleyball, yoga, inline skating, face painting. Free. John Kelly 510-814-4999 Ext. 122.

ages 18 months to 9 years. 9-12 p.m.

Aug. 27 Bladum Sports and Fitness Club, 800 West Tower Ave., Alameda. Activities include: rock wall climbing, baseball batting cages, volleyball, yoga, inline skating, face painting. Free. John Kelly 510-814-4999 Ext. 122.

SOCER

■ Alameda Contra Costa Youth Soccer League — Open tryouts for Mavericks Aztecas 13U team 6-8 p.m. Mondays-Fridays at team practices, Kennedy High School, 4300 Cutting Blvd., Richmond. Players must be born after July 31, 1993. Karl, 510-528-5526 or Malamud_Roam@hotmail.com.

GENERAL

■ Kidfest — Multi-activity day for

■ SOFTBALL

■ Lady Athletics — Tryouts for highly competitive players for 18U A squad, 6 p.m. Aug. 18 at the Laney College softball field. Linda Thompson, 510-388-6185 or visit www.eteamz.com/fadylathletics.

■ Hayward Lady Wolfpack Fast-pitch — Looking for players, 16U and 18U, for fall season. Call for tryout information, 510-317-1710. Visit www.ladywolfpack.org.

■ Contra Costa College — Looking for experienced pitching coach. Deadline for applications Aug. 17.

See CALENDAR, Page 2

ALAMEDA RUN FOR THE PARKS

10-kilometer run

OVERALL TOP 20

1 Ben Turman (Berkeley) 32:32.3, Yogi Reichert (Alameda) 32:58, 3 Kota Reichert (Alameda) 33:29, 4 Neal Gafford (Alameda) 34:10, 5 Jim Keenan (Walnut Creek) 34:51, 6 Aran Rogerson (Alameda) 34:52, Michael Abrams (Pleasanton) 35:00, 7 Ivan Medina (Hayward) 35:15, 11 Sean O'Toole (Walnut Creek) 35:16, 12 Mark Johnson (Alameda) 35:31, 13 David Jones (Danville) 35:44, 14 James Laville (Carmichael) 35:54, 15 Neal Rodrigues (Alameda) 37:01, 16 Michael Wolfe (San Francisco) 37:33, 17 Mark Franklin 37:35, 18 Steve Ware (Stockton) 37:40, 19 Patrick Harkins (Alameda) 37:45, 20 Michael Shinn (Alameda) 37:55.

Women

1 Karen June (Alameda) 36:20, 2 Jenny Wynn (Pleasanton) 36:20, 3 Vicki Benson-Arnold (n/a) 39:11, 5 Corinne Roberts (Alameda) 39:16, 6 Pamela Hayes (n/a) 40:3, 7 Vicki Benson-Arnold (n/a) 40:13, 8 Roberta McGraw (n/a) 40:3, 9 Diane Dove (Alameda) 41:29, 10 Karen Sazana (Palo Alto) 42:29, 11 Katelyn Gorder (Livermore) 42:29, 12 Shirley Mayson (Livermore) 43:09, 13 Diana Gatzath (Pleasanton) 43:10, 14 Vicki Benson-Arnold (n/a) 43:15, 15 Jessica Scatena (San Lorenzo) 44:24, 16 Jennifer MacPherson (Alameda) 44:41, 17 Darly Wooten (Berkeley) 45:36, 18 Barbara Miller (Modesto) 46:03, 19 Amanda Khan (Pleasanton) 46:04, 20 Dana Farkas (Lafayette) 46:24.

Run

FROM PAGE 1

in the 10K were Turman, Yogi Reichert of Alameda (32:58), and Yogi's brother, Kota (33:29). The

Youth

FROM PAGE 1

Sting 15, Clovis Bullets 13: In a shaky start, Sting opening on defense, provided free passes, made sloppy plays and generally looked awful in spotting Clovis an eight-run first inning lead. Sting appeared to be trying to tire the Bullets out by forcing them to run around the bases.

Fortunately, the strategy may have worked. In the bottom half, Sting put the ball in play and Clovis returned the favor, butchering several balls while walking three. With two out, Corey Chin iced a five-run comeback by dumping a bases-loaded single into center.

Pitcher Lise Dohner settled down, as did the defense, and Sting shut out Clovis over the next five innings.

Meanwhile, Sting continued to peck away. In the fourth, consecutive singles by Smithers, Murakami, Diana Fong, and Kelsey Fredriksen set the stage for Marisa Budlong's go-ahead double.

top three female finishers were June (15th overall), Jenny Wong (of Piedmont (27th overall, 38:34), and Becky Krieger of San Jose (31st overall, 39:05). The 2.2-mile top finishers were Vincent Durant of Walnut Creek (14:10),

Three insurance runs in the sixth proved critical when things again got ugly in the seventh. Clovis runners paraded around the bases, with five crossing the plate, before Sara Muse snared a soft pop-up at first to end the game with the tying run aboard.

For the second time this season, Sting won after trailing by eight. Sting improved their season record to 19-6, a stellar winning percentage of 7.60, though any major league baseball team.

Chula Vista Bonita Valley All-Stars 10, Sting 0: Sting received a thorough thrashing at the hands of an excellent team. Powerful hitting and dominating pitching has a way of causing trouble. Fredriksen had the lone sting hit. Bonita Valley won their third game without giving up a run, steam-rolling their opponents 33-0.

Pleasanton Phantom 9, Sting 4: Having faced Phantom twice before in California tournaments and losing both times, Sting knew they were in for a battle. A loss by either team meant the end of the road.

With everything at stake, a confident Sting team held Phantom down

and eked out a 1-0 lead through three innings. Phantom tied the game in the fourth and then the wheels fell off in the fifth and sixth. Phantom batted around each time as all three of Sting's pitchers tried in vain to get things back on track.

Three more Sting runs were not nearly enough. With even the breaks going against them: close plays, running decisions, upping calls, it was all too much to overcome.

Nevertheless, the 11 Sting members returned home as happy players, officially the 17th-best team in the western United States. With memories and souvenirs, and cases crammed with scores of shiny team pins, the girls achieved what they set out to do when practice began in the spring. Although their head coach for three years, Angie Goularte, was forced to stay behind, due at any day to deliver her second child, assistant Parissa Placencia capable filled in. Now, all but two players move up a level to 14-under ball, where the hunt begins again.

Submitted by Geoff Chin, Alameda-Berkeley Sting

marveled at the boats' colors and the deep tans of their crews as the boats finished the week-long journey from Los Angeles to Hawaii. He stood in awe of the champagne parties that followed.

"Even as a 5-year-old," he said, "I knew I belonged there." At 16, he left his home in Hawaii to sail the Pacific Ocean. After graduating from Dartmouth College — which he attended on a sailing scholarship — he competed in regattas around the world. In his 20s, he skippered yachts for wealthy Europeans, even those who once claimed the Iron Onion as a friend.

"It was very sexy being the 25-year-old skipper on a billionaire's yacht," Sandberg said. "But it's kind of like being a lifeguard. What looks sexy when you're young is not so sexy at 50."

Sandberg traded in his post lifestyle for service in the Peace Corps. He took an assignment in Nepal, one of the poorest and least developed countries in the world. There, he saw people living in mud huts and surviving on rice.

Hardship, he learned, is all in how you define it.

Living out of his van and forgoing a paycheck, those weren't really hardships in the early days of business.

These days, Sandberg lives in a Berkeley apartment and a farmhouse in Sebastopol. The

boat with which he started his business is long gone.

But remnants of the early days remain. Neighboring the two-story clubhouse sits a fire pit, built with rocks gathered from the shoreline. It was there that Sandberg first cracked open a beer and sat chatting with his students after a lesson on the water.

Some things have changed. Caterers now grill the food outside the clubhouse. The structure for an outdoor deck and theater is in place. Corporations come in droves, using sailing outings in place of traditional training to emphasize teamwork. Sailing as a sport and a social activity, however, still is at the club's core.

Eventually, Sandberg said, he would like the school to be called a sailing resort — complete with a restaurant, locker rooms, a workout room, saunas and child care.

If sailing could do it, why not sailing, too?

He contemplates that thought as he stands on an incline that overlooks the club at his back and the Golden Gate Bridge at his front. He peers out over the bay, quiet for a long moment.

"It's like 6 feet of powder snow," he says and smiles. "My dream before I die is to get more people on the water. Everyone should experience a piece of this."

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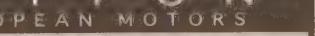
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"He's been on big boats and around big money," Ledgerwood said, "but he knows that's not what life is all about."

Sandberg doesn't remember when or even how he learned to sail, largely because he has been on boats, "since I was a babe in arms," he said.

At age 5, he stood on the Waikiki Beach in Honolulu, two blocks from his home, watching the Transpacific Yacht Race. He

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Movies

FROM PAGE C3

romantic drama, tells us his life is changed when he meets Lila, a blond sexpot who is "hot enough to provoke wars." In this respect, Douie's second movie recalls the naughtiness of 1998's "West Beirut," his earlier and much better coming-of-age yarn. Otherwise, this is an underdeveloped exercise in carnal awakening that thinks its characters are far more special than they ever prove to be. — W. Morris. (Not rated; strong sexual situations; in French with subtitles.) 1 hour, 26 minutes. C+

"MADAGASCAR": DreamWorks' latest computer-animation suffers from narrative and character malnutrition, but has enough wordplay, visual gags and character nonsense to keep us chuckling and occasionally roaring. A hippo, giraffe and lion give chase when their friend Marty the zebra (Chris Rock) escapes the Central Park Zoo. They wind up washed ashore on a tropical island, where they befriend a tribe of partying lemurs and face Alex the lion's emerging carnivorous instincts. — R. Butler. (PG; mild language, crude humor and some thematic elements.) 1 hour, 25 minutes. C+

"MAD HOT BALLROOM": This documentary follows several teams of pre-adolescent student dancers from New York as they train for the nerve-racking competition that caps the American Ballroom Theater's "Dancing Classrooms" program. There's inherent drama built into any contest, and the filmmakers make the most of the fact — without milking it for cheap sentiment — that there will not just be winners, but losers. — M. O'Sullivan. (PG; some mild references to sex and violence.) 1 hour, 45 minutes. B+

"MA MERE": Isabelle Huppert plays Helene, who spends each night in a nihilistic blur of sex with whomever she can find at the local clubs. Never mind that she has an elderly husband and a 17-year-old son, Pierre, a dark, leonine, Oedipal wreck. Probably not for anyone not interested in the darkest corners of the human psyche, where all moral bets are off, and where a boy's worst friend is his mother. — T. Burr. (NC-17; nudity, graphic sex, incest, sadomasochism; in French with subtitles.) 1 hour, 48 minutes. B+

"MARCH OF THE PENGUINS": A stunningly beautiful documentary about the mating habits of Emperor penguins. Makes you feel like a kid again — curious, excited and enraptured by a story that has nothing to do with humans, not to mention Morgan Freeman narrating in his sooth-singing, rich-as-caramel voice. The only unfortunate aspect is the way director Luc Jacquet anthropomorphizes the birds, incorporating human ideals of love into the screenplay. It's unnecessary, the remarkable story of the penguins can more than stand alone. Still, this is the perfect family movie. — M. Pol. (G) 1 hour, 20 minutes. B+

"ME AND YOU AND EVERYONE WE KNOW": A deliberately quirky romance about a sad-sack divorced shoe salesman (John Hawkes) and the video performance artist (Miranda July) who falls for him. Equal attention is paid to story lines involving his children and their friends, which infuses the movie with charm and comedy. July writes and directs as well, and she's a considerable talent, especially when it comes to getting naturalistic performances out of children. However, some may find her style too precious, and others will (rightly) challenge the tastefulness of a subplot involving Internet sex chat. — M. Pol. (R; disturbing sexual content involving children, and for language.) 1 hour, 30 minutes. B-

"MR. & MRS. SMITH": Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie face off in this high-gloss, high-caliber domestic squabble. Husband and wife are both assassins, but it's only after John Smith tries to kill the same bad guy his wife is gunning for that they learn each other's secret. The great screen chemistry between Pitt and Jolie and the movie's treatment of

marriage as the ultimate form of combat makes it the entertaining bauble it is. — B. Newman. (PG-13; violence, sex, partial nudity.) 1 hour, 59 minutes. B

"MURDERBALL": The ferocity of competition in this gripping sports documentary on wheelchair rugby trumps anything you'll find on reality TV. A synthesis of basketball, hockey and rugby, the sport is played by quadriplegic men, many disabled by catastrophic accidents during the prime of life. Based on a magazine article by Diana Adam Shapiro, who co-directed the movie, "Murderball" is almost as tough as the relentlessly combative players it profiles. — S. Holden. (R; abundant profanity and frank sex talk.) 1 hour, 26 minutes. C-

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"NINA'S TRAGEDIES": Nadav (Aviv Elkabetz), this film's besotted 14-year-old hero, narrates the recent events of his family's life, in which he details his obsession with his mother's pretty younger sister, Nina. The problem is that his voice-over tells us everything, so the action, when it unfolds, seems redundant. The movie hops from one episode to the next, with no momentum and no reason to care about these people. — W. Morris. (Not rated; in Hebrew with subtitles.) 1 hour, 26 minutes. B+

"NOVEMBER": A psychological thriller about a woman (Courtney Cox) whose boyfriend (James LeGros) gets killed during a convenience store robbery. She's plagued by guilt, headaches and possibly hallucinations. We see different versions of what happened, until we get to the truth ... which is that writer Benjamin Brand is a little too inspired by the recent works of David Lynch. Cox succeeds in breaking out of her Monica Geller-Bing persona largely by giving an inoffensive, flat performance. — M. Pol. (R; violence, some language.) 1 hour, 23 minutes. C-

"RIZE": A documentary about the evolution of a dance form in South Central Los Angeles. Spawned by the Rodney King riots, "clowning" and its offshoot, "krumping," are aggressive, angry, sexual and phenomenally energetic. But fashion photographer David LaChapelle treats it too superficially, leaving unanswered questions about its practitioners in favor of long stretches of nothing more than recorded movement. — M. Pol. (PG-13; suggestive content, drug references, language and brief nudity.) 1 hour, 25 minutes. B-

"SARABAND": Ingmar Bergman has failed to make good on his promise to retire for close to 20 years now, and aren't we grateful. A very tangential sequel to "Scenes From a Marriage," the movie is a chamber piece in which the couple from the 1973 film and TV series, Liv Ullmann's Marianne and Erland Josephson's Johan, concede most of the emotional spotlight to younger generations. As ever with Bergman, it is the actors' faces that leave the most indelible impressions. — B. Strauss. (R; nudity, language; in Swedish with subtitles.) 1 hour, 47 minutes. A

"SHATTUCK DOWN LOW": "Live Salsa." Ongoing. An evening of dancing to the music of a live salsa band. The night opens with beginning lessons at 8 p.m. and intermediate lessons at 8:45 p.m. Wednesdays, 8 p.m. \$10 general; \$5 students.

"SWAMP COOLERS": Aug. 13, 9 p.m. Cajun dance lesson at 8 p.m. \$13 general; \$11 students.

"CAFÉ BELIE": Aug. 14, 7:30 p.m. Belly-dance lesson at 6:30 p.m. \$10.

"COURTEABLE": Aug. 16, 8:30 p.m. Cajun dance lesson at 8 p.m. \$9.

"SWINGING": Aug. 17, 9 p.m. Swing dance lesson at 8 p.m. \$9.

1317 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. (510) 525-5054 or www.ashkenaz.com.

"LA PENA CULTURAL CENTER": Ciinti "La Gallard" and Ethan "Canasta" Margolis, Aug. 20, 8 p.m. Flamenco music and dance. \$22 to \$25.

3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. (510) 849-2568 or www.lapena.org.

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"ICE CREAM": Aug. 21, 8 p.m. Salsa

"ENTERTAINMENT": Aug. 22, 8 p.m. Salsa

"SATURN PARTY HATS": Aug. 23, 8 p.m. Salsa

"SCAVENGER HUNT": Aug. 24, 8 p.m. Salsa

"WATER ROCKETS": Aug. 25, 8 p.m. Salsa

"SOLAR BRACELETS": Aug. 26, 8 p.m. Salsa

"ICE CREAM": Aug. 27, 8 p.m. Salsa

"ENTERTAINMENT": Aug. 28, 8 p.m. Salsa

"SATURN PARTY HATS": Aug. 29, 8 p.m. Salsa

"SCAVENGER HUNT": Aug. 30, 8 p.m. Salsa

"WATER ROCKETS": Aug. 31, 8 p.m. Salsa

"SOLAR BRACELETS": Aug. 32, 8 p.m. Salsa

"ICE CREAM": Aug. 33, 8 p.m. Salsa

"ENTERTAINMENT": Aug. 34, 8 p.m. Salsa

"SATURN PARTY HATS": Aug. 35, 8 p.m. Salsa

"SCAVENGER HUNT": Aug. 36, 8 p.m. Salsa

"WATER ROCKETS": Aug. 37, 8 p.m. Salsa

"SOLAR BRACELETS": Aug. 38, 8 p.m. Salsa

"ICE CREAM": Aug. 39, 8 p.m. Salsa

"ENTERTAINMENT": Aug. 40, 8 p.m. Salsa

"SATURN PARTY HATS": Aug. 41, 8 p.m. Salsa

"SCAVENGER HUNT": Aug. 42, 8 p.m. Salsa

"WATER ROCKETS": Aug. 43, 8 p.m. Salsa

"SOLAR BRACELETS": Aug. 44, 8 p.m. Salsa

"ICE CREAM": Aug. 45, 8 p.m. Salsa

"ENTERTAINMENT": Aug. 46, 8 p.m. Salsa

"SATURN PARTY HATS": Aug. 47, 8 p.m. Salsa

"SCAVENGER HUNT": Aug. 48, 8 p.m. Salsa

"WATER ROCKETS": Aug. 49, 8 p.m. Salsa

"SOLAR BRACELETS": Aug. 50, 8 p.m. Salsa

"ICE CREAM": Aug. 51, 8 p.m. Salsa

"ENTERTAINMENT": Aug. 52, 8 p.m. Salsa

"SATURN PARTY HATS": Aug. 53, 8 p.m. Salsa

"SCAVENGER HUNT": Aug. 54, 8 p.m. Salsa

"WATER ROCKETS": Aug. 55, 8 p.m. Salsa

"SOLAR BRACELETS": Aug. 56, 8 p.m. Salsa

"ICE CREAM": Aug. 57, 8 p.m. Salsa

"ENTERTAINMENT": Aug. 58, 8 p.m. Salsa

"SATURN PARTY HATS": Aug. 59, 8 p.m. Salsa

"SCAVENGER HUNT": Aug. 60, 8 p.m. Salsa

"WATER ROCKETS": Aug. 61, 8 p.m. Salsa

"SOLAR BRACELETS": Aug. 62, 8 p.m. Salsa

"ICE CREAM": Aug. 63, 8 p.m. Salsa

"ENTERTAINMENT": Aug. 64, 8 p.m. Salsa

"SATURN PARTY HATS": Aug. 65, 8 p.m. Salsa

"SCAVENGER HUNT": Aug. 66, 8 p.m. Salsa

"WATER ROCKETS": Aug. 67, 8 p.m. Salsa

"SOLAR BRACELETS": Aug. 68, 8 p.m. Salsa

"ICE CREAM": Aug. 69, 8 p.m. Salsa

"ENTERTAINMENT": Aug. 70, 8 p.m. Salsa

"SATURN PARTY HATS": Aug. 71, 8 p.m. Salsa

"SCAVENGER HUNT": Aug. 72, 8 p.m. Salsa

"WATER ROCKETS": Aug. 73, 8 p.m. Salsa

"SOLAR BRACELETS": Aug. 74, 8 p.m. Salsa

"ICE CREAM": Aug. 75, 8 p.m. Salsa

"ENTERTAINMENT": Aug. 76, 8 p.m. Salsa

"SATURN PARTY HATS": Aug. 77, 8 p.m. Salsa

"SCAVENGER HUNT": Aug. 78, 8 p.m. Salsa

"WATER ROCKETS": Aug. 79, 8 p.m. Salsa

"SOLAR BRACELETS": Aug. 80, 8 p.m. Salsa

"ICE CREAM": Aug. 81, 8 p.m. Salsa

"ENTERTAINMENT": Aug. 82, 8 p.m. Salsa

"SATURN PARTY HATS": Aug. 83, 8 p.m. Salsa

"SCAVENGER HUNT": Aug. 84, 8 p.m. Salsa

"WATER ROCKETS": Aug. 85, 8 p.m. Salsa

"SOLAR BRACELETS": Aug. 86, 8 p.m. Salsa

"ICE CREAM": Aug. 87, 8 p.m. Salsa

"ENTERTAINMENT": Aug. 88, 8 p.m. Salsa

"SATURN PARTY HATS": Aug. 89, 8 p.m. Salsa

"SCAVENGER HUNT": Aug. 90, 8 p.m. Salsa

"WATER ROCKETS": Aug. 91, 8 p.m. Salsa

"SOLAR BRACELETS": Aug. 92, 8 p.m. Salsa

"ICE CREAM": Aug. 93, 8 p.m. Salsa

"ENTERTAINMENT": Aug. 94, 8 p.m. Salsa

"SATURN PARTY HATS": Aug. 95, 8 p.m. Salsa

"SCAVENGER HUNT": Aug. 96, 8 p.m. Salsa

"WATER ROCKETS": Aug. 97, 8 p.m. Salsa

"SOLAR BRACELETS": Aug. 98, 8 p.m. Salsa

"ICE CREAM": Aug. 99, 8 p.m. Salsa

"ENTERTAINMENT": Aug. 100, 8 p.m. Salsa

"SATURN PARTY HATS": Aug. 101, 8 p.m. Salsa

"SCAVENGER HUNT": Aug. 102, 8 p.m. Salsa

"WATER ROCKETS": Aug. 103, 8 p.m. Salsa

"SOLAR BRACELETS": Aug. 104, 8 p.m. Salsa

"ICE CREAM": Aug. 105, 8 p.m. Salsa

"ENTERTAINMENT": Aug. 106, 8 p.m. Salsa

"SATURN PARTY HATS": Aug. 107, 8 p.m. Salsa

"SCAVENGER HUNT": Aug. 108, 8 p.m. Salsa

"WATER ROCKETS": Aug. 109, 8 p.m. Salsa

"SOLAR BRACELETS": Aug. 110, 8 p.m. Salsa

"ICE CREAM": Aug. 111, 8 p.m. Salsa

"ENTERTAINMENT": Aug. 112, 8 p.m. Salsa

"SATURN PARTY HATS": Aug. 113, 8 p.m. Salsa

"SCAVENGER HUNT": Aug. 114, 8 p.m. Salsa

"WATER ROCKETS": Aug. 115, 8 p.m. Salsa

"SOLAR BRACELETS": Aug. 116, 8 p.m. Salsa

"ICE CREAM": Aug. 117, 8 p.m. Salsa

"ENTERTAINMENT": Aug. 118, 8 p.m. Salsa

"SATURN PARTY HATS": Aug. 119, 8 p.m. Salsa

"SCAVENGER HUNT": Aug. 120, 8 p.m. Salsa

"WATER ROCKETS": Aug. 121, 8 p.m. Salsa

"SOLAR BRACELETS": Aug. 122, 8 p.m. Salsa

"ICE CREAM": Aug. 123, 8 p.m. Salsa

"ENTERTAINMENT": Aug. 124, 8 p.m. Salsa

"SATURN PARTY HATS": Aug. 125, 8 p.m. Salsa

"SCAVENGER HUNT": Aug. 126, 8 p.m. Salsa

"WATER ROCKETS": Aug. 127, 8 p.m. Salsa

"SOLAR BRACELETS": Aug. 128, 8 p.m. Salsa

"ICE CREAM": Aug. 129, 8 p.m. Salsa

"ENTERTAINMENT": Aug. 130, 8 p.m. Salsa

"SATURN PARTY HATS": Aug. 131, 8 p.m. Salsa

"SCAVENGER HUNT": Aug. 132, 8 p.m. Salsa

"WATER ROCKETS": Aug. 133, 8 p.m. Salsa

"SOLAR BRACELETS": Aug. 134, 8 p.m. Salsa

"ICE CREAM": Aug. 135, 8 p.m. Salsa

"ENTERTAINMENT": Aug. 136, 8 p.m. Salsa

"SATURN PARTY HATS": Aug. 137, 8 p.m. Salsa

"SCAVENGER HUNT": Aug. 138, 8 p.m. Salsa

"WATER ROCKETS": Aug. 139, 8 p.m. Salsa

"SOLAR BRACELETS": Aug. 140, 8 p.m. Salsa

"ICE CREAM": Aug. 141, 8 p.m. Salsa

"ENTERTAINMENT": Aug. 142, 8 p.m. Salsa

"SATURN PARTY HATS": Aug. 143, 8 p.m. Salsa

"SCAVENGER HUNT": Aug. 144, 8 p.m. Salsa

"WATER ROCKETS": Aug. 145, 8 p.m. Salsa

"SOLAR BRACELETS": Aug. 146, 8 p.m. Salsa

"ICE CREAM": Aug. 147, 8 p.m. Salsa

"ENTERTAINMENT": Aug. 148, 8 p.m. Salsa

"SATURN PARTY HATS": Aug. 149, 8 p.m. Salsa

"SCAVENGER HUNT": Aug. 150, 8 p.m. Salsa

"WATER ROCKETS": Aug. 151, 8 p.m. Salsa

Events

FROM PAGE C4

and prints.
3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, (510) 846-2568 or www.apena.org.**OAKLAND ART GALLERY** — "Photo" Aug. 18 through Sep. 24. A group exhibit exploring the complex role of photography in contemporary art.
Reception, Aug. 18, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Artist Talk, Sept. 15, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Free Wednesday and Thursday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday, noon to 4 p.m. 199 Kamm's Alley, Oakland (510) 637-0393 or www.oaklandartgallery.org.**OAKLAND ASIAN CULTURAL CENTER** — "Oakland's 19th-Century San Pablo Avenue Chinatown," Ongoing. A permanent exhibit of new findings about the rediscovered Chinatown on San Pablo Avenue. The exhibit aims to inform visitors about the upcoming archaeological work planned to explore the lives of early Chinese pioneers in the 1860s.
Free. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; 388 Ninth St., Suite 290, Oakland, (510) 637-0455 or www.oacc.cc.**OAKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY, AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM AND LIBRARY** —"Tired to Find My Way Home: A Black Man Speaks of the Father," June 4 through Sep. 24. An exhibit of 20 original paintings by Milton Bowens.
"Liberty on the Border: A Civil War Exhibit," June 11 through Sep. 11. A 250-square-foot exhibit focusing on non-military life along the border between the North from South and free slave. Try on a Civil War soldier's jacket and feel the weight of his pack, along with other interactive components of the exhibit.
Free. Tuesday through Saturday, noon to 5 p.m. 659 14th St., Oakland, (510) 637-0200 or www.oaklandlibrary.org.**OAKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY, LAKE-WIND BACH** —

"Asian American Quilters' Guild of Oakland," Aug. 1 through Aug. 31. An exhibit of colorful quilts by members of the guild.

Free. Tuesday, 12:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.; Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Friday, noon to 5 p.m. 550 El Embarcadero, Oakland, (510) 238-7344 or www.oaklandlibrary.org.**OAKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY, MAIN BRANCH** —

"First Starts, Free Choices: The Jews of Alameda County," June 13 through Oct. 4. An exhibit exploring the historic contributions of Jewish people in the East Bay through photographic books, periodicals and ephemeral materials. In the Oakland History Room.

Free. Monday, Tuesday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Wednesday and Thursday, noon to 8 p.m.; Friday, noon to 5:30 p.m.; Sunday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. 125 14th St., Oakland, (510) 238-9134 or www.oaklandlibrary.org.**OLIVE HYDE ART GALLERY** —

"Olive Hyde Art Guild 'Members Only' Show," July 8 through Aug. 13. A group art exhibit.

Free. Thursday through Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. 123 Washington Blvd., Fremont, (510) 791-4357.

RICHMOND ART CENTER —

"Aggregate Entities," June 21 through Aug. 15. An exhibit of sculptural installations and drawings by Ben Diller.

"Revealing the Artist Within," June 21 through Aug. 15. An exhibit of artwork by a group of artists working with the Expressive Arts Component of the West County Day Treatment Center in Richmond.

"Wholly Grace," through Sept. 29. A solo exhibit of clay works by Susan Duhon Felix.

Artist Talks, Aug. 16, noon, and Sept. 4, 3 p.m.

Free. Tuesday and Thursday, 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Holbrook Hall, Pacific School of Religion, 1798 Scenic Ave., Berkeley, (510) 848-0528 or <http://bade.psu.edu/bade>.**C.E. SMITH MUSEUM OF ANTHROPOLOGY AT CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, EAST BAY** —

The museum houses significant collections of archaeological and ethnographic specimens from Africa, Asia and North America and small collections from Central and South America. The museum offers opportunities and materials for student research and internships in archaeology and ethnology.

Free. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Melikjohn Hall, Fourth Floor, 25800 Carlos Bee Blvd., Hayward, (510) 885-3104, (510) 885-7414 or www.issis.csuhayward.edu/ce-smith/acesmith.html.**EBONY MUSEUM OF ARTS** —

A museum specializing in the art and history of Africa. The collection that was on display in the museum's Jack London Village branch has been incorporated with the material in the 14th Street Victorian Museum building, the site of the original museum.

Donation: \$2 guided tour. Tuesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

1034 14th St., Oakland, (510) 763-0141.

GOLDEN STATE MODEL RAILROAD MUSEUM —

"through Dec. 31. The museum features extensive displays of operating model railroads constructed and operated by the East Bay Model Engineers Society. Covering some 10,000 square feet, steam and modern diesel-powered freight and passenger trains operate in O, HO and N scales on separate layouts as well as narrow gauge and trolley lines. Of special interest is the Tehachapi Summit, just east of Bakersfield. The layouts include such famous railroad landmarks as Niles Canyon, Donner Pass and the Oakland Mole where transcontinental passengers were ferried across San Francisco Bay from their arriving trains. VIEW THE LAYOUTS ONLY ON SATURDAYS; WATCH TRAINS RUN ON THE LAYOUTS ON SUNDAYS.

Free on Saturday, \$3 general; \$2 seniors and children under age 12; \$7 families on Sunday. Saturday and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. Miller-Knox Regional Shoreline, 900 Dornan Drive, Point Richmond, (510) 234-4884 or www.gsmrm.org.**RICHLAND GROUND GALLERY** —

"Old Tales," June 29 through Sep. 25. A group exhibit of paintings and drawings.

Free. Daily, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. 2058 Mountain Blvd., Oakland, (510) 339-0340.

THELMA HARRIS ART GALLERY —

"White Linen Nights," Aug. 13 through Sep. 23. The annual exhibit show cases works by Renaissance masters and contemporary artists. This year's featured works by Jamaican artist and painter Toni Scott.

Free. Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday, 100 38th St., Richmond, (510) 231-1348.

THOMAS HARRIS GALLERIES —

"Old Tales," June 29 through Sep. 25. A group exhibit of paintings and drawings.

Free. Daily, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. 2058 Mountain Blvd., Oakland, (510) 339-0340.

HABITOT CHILDREN'S MUSEUM —

A museum especially for children ages 7 and under. Highlights include "WinterWorks," an area with some unusual water toys, an Infant Tree for babies, a garden especially for toddlers, a child-size grocery store and cafe, and a costume shop and stage for junior thespians. The museum also features a toy lending library.

Free. Tuesday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday, noon to 5 p.m. 5940 College Ave., Oakland, (510) 654-0443 or www.thelma-harris-art-gallery.com.**WOMEN'S CANCER RESOURCE CENTER GALLERY** —"Dream Life," July 8 through Aug. 31. An exhibit of screen prints, paintings, mixed-media works, encaustic and monotype works by Alexandra Blum and Mariana Garibay R. Free. Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 4 p.m. 199 Kamm's Alley, Oakland, (510) 637-0393 or www.oaklandartgallery.org.

MUSEUMS

AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM AND LIBRARY — The museum is designed to discover, preserve, interpret and share the cultural and historical experiences of African Americans in California and the West. In addition, there is a three-panel mural on permanent display.**SPECIAL EXHIBITS** —"Liberty on the Border: A Civil War Exhibit," through Sept. 11. An exhibit exploring non-military life in the border regions between North and South during the Civil War. The exhibit features artifacts, archival documents, broadsides, ephemera, lithographs and photographs.
"Trying to Find My Way Home: A Black Male Speaks of the Father," through Sept. 24. An exhibit of large-scale mixed-media works by Milton Bowens that explore the stereotypes and urban myths associated with the absent African-American male, the separation of the family and the consequences for the community.Free. Tuesday through Saturday, noon to 5:30 p.m. 659 14th St., Oakland, (510) 637-0200 or www.oaklandlibrary.org.**ALAMEDA MUSEUM** — The museum offers permanent displays of Alameda history, the only rotating gallery showcasing local Alameda artists and student artwork as well as souvenirs, books and videos about the rich history of the island city.Free. Wednesday through Friday, 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sunday, 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. 2324 Alameda Ave., Alameda, (510) 521-1233 or www.alamedamuseum.org.**BADH MUSEUM AT THE PACIFIC SCHOOL OF RELIGION** — The museum's collections include the Tell en-Nasbeh Collection, consisting of artifacts excavated from Tell en-Nasbeh in Palestine in 1926 and 1935 by William Badh, and the Howell Bible Collection, featuring approximately 300 rare books (primarily Bibles) dating from the 15th through the 18th centuries.

"Wholly Grace," through Sept. 29. A solo exhibit of clay works by Susan Duhon Felix.

Artist Talks, Aug. 16, noon, and Sept. 4, 3 p.m.

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THE DINING GUIDE

Featured Menu

SUNDAY BRUNCH 11:30-2:00

- Seared Ahi, assorted baby lettuces, wonton crisps, wasabi crème fraîche 13.
- Two eggs any style, toast, bistro skillet potatoes 11.
- Broiled rib eye, salmon or Black Forest ham steak and eggs any style, toast, bistro skillet potatoes 17.
- Corned beef hash with eggs any style 15.
- Fluffy omelet with mushrooms, ham, jack cheese, bistro skillet potatoes 13.
- Shrimp omelet Mornay, bistro skillet potatoes 14.
- Tuscan benedict, poached eggs over English muffin, prosciutto, tomato, hollandaise 15.
- Bistro French toast, caramelized exterior, fruit salad, maple syrup 12.
- Caesar salad, grilled chicken, roasted croutons, Parmesan Reggiano 14.

Sides

Colorful fruit salad 4. Toast 3. Bistro Skillet Potatoes 4. 1 egg 3. Soft drinks 2. Coffee 2.50 Juices 3. Mimosa 7. Bloody Mary 7.

* A \$2 charge will be added for split items from the kitchen.

www.montclairbistro.com

- An 18% gratuity will be automatically added to parties of 6 or larger.
- Montclair Bistro is available for private events.
- Free corkage on Wednesdays!

Complimentary Mimosa with brunch today!

Philosophy: Metrix Cuisine - "A synergy between the food on the table, the art on the walls, and the ambience of the restaurant. The result is a feeling of comfort and harmony between the food and surroundings."

- Henry Vortlede, Chef/Owner

Location:

6118 Medau Place,
Montclair Village
Oakland, CA 94611

Contact:

Phone: 510-482-8282
Fax: 510-482-8294

Hours of Operation:

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Sunday Brunch | 11:30AM - 2:00 PM |
| Lunch | 11:30 AM - 2:00 PM Thurs & Fri |
| HAPPY HOUR | 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM Tues - Fri |
| Dinner | 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM Tues, Wed, Thurs 5:30 PM - 9:30 PM Fri & Sat |

CAFE YA'SOU
Greek Mediterranean, Continental Cuisine
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510.522.7791 • 510.522.7789 fax

Angela's

807 Marina Village Pkwy, Alameda (510) 522-5822
Voted Best Chef in Alameda for 2004, chef Saboor Zafari creates a symphony of culinary delight in every dining experience at Angela's. Zafari prepares all his recipes from scratch daily, gathering fresh, organic ingredients from local farmers' markets in and around Alameda. Also voted Best Wine List for 2004, Angela's offers a marvelous menu of wines to compliment your experience. Visit Zafari and the superb staff at Angela's for an Alameda fine-dining experience with candle-lit ambience.

Exciting Exotic



KAMAKURA

ARAUJOS
Restaurant and Taqueria
Breakfast Bonanza!
Breakfast Served All Day
4 pancakes, \$3.99
2 eggs and 2 pieces of bacon or sausage, \$3.99
& free coffee or 8 oz. orange juice, \$4.99
Best homemade hash browns in Alameda
Look for our menu & coupons in the Alameda Yellow Pages.
1635 Park Street Alameda • (510) 814-0412

Araujos Restaurant and Taqueria

1635 Park Street, Alameda, (510) 814-0412
Arturo and Guadalupe Araujo invite you to Araujos Restaurant and Taqueria, serving wonderful authentic home-style Mexican AND American food! Dishes are prepared fresh daily by the Araujos who also offer daily breakfast specials, including Belgian waffles and gourmet omelets. Popular lunch and dinner specials are also offered daily. The restaurant offers a warm, homey atmosphere, and every table has a view of Park Street! Our restaurant offers and best prices and, of course, the best food. Come see for yourself! Look for our ad and coupons in the Alameda Yellow Pages. We are open Monday through Saturday from 8am-10pm and Sunday from 9am-3pm.
1635 Park Street, (510) 814-0412

Sabuy Sabuy II

THAI CUISINE

Savory Soups, Fresh Salads

Delicious Meat and Vegetarian Dishes

Dinner Mon-Sat, 5:30-9:30 Sun, 5:30-9:30 • 4-8:30

Lunch 11-3 Daily

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Berkeley • (510) 528-3932

Angela's
Voted Best Chef in Alameda
Early Bird Specials 5pm Daily
OPEN Monday - Friday Lunch
Monday - Saturday Dinner
Call for reservations.
807 - Marina Village Parkway
(510) 522-5822

Kamakura

2549 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda (510) 521-9121
Faith Yamato and the chefs of Kamakura present SHARI, the highest quality of rice that envelopes Sushi. The best short grain premium rice available in the USA is used for Kamakura's Sushi. The Tamanshiki brand of rice definitely provides the decisive edge in Sushi quality and taste. Following centuries old Japanese culinary practice, the rice is gently steamed, then seasoned with an aged-vinegar blend, and caringly fanned to cool to achieve the perfect, firm, yet moist texture, pliable but not sticky; there is no shortcut. For authentic, delectable Sushi and original Japanese creations, dine-in, take-out and party catering, visit or contact Kamakura Restaurant, 2549 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda, (510) 521-9121. Wheel chair access, accepting Visa, MasterCard, AMEX, Discover. Open for Lunch Mon. - Sat. 11:30-3:30; Dinner served daily 5pm-10pm.

La Pinata
1440 PARK STREET
ALAMEDA
510.769.9111 • 510.769.9110
OPEN 7AM-3AM MON-SUN
www.lapinata.com

LARGEST SELECTION OF 100% AGAVE TEQUILA IN THE BAY AREA
COME AND ENJOY OUR TEQUILA BAR WITH HAPPY HOUR

- MONDAY THRU FRIDAY 4-6PM
- \$3.50 HOUSE MARGARITAS!
- \$2.00 OFF TOP SHELF MARGARITAS!
- ALL APPETIZERS 1/2 OFF!

La Pinata 3

1440 Park St., Alameda (510) 769-9111
La Pinata 3 has been indulging the Bay Area since 1978 with authentic, delicious Mexican cuisine. In 2005, La Pinata 3 introduced their Taco Bar, offering authentic Mexican tacos prepared the old-fashioned way, with traditional ingredients. In addition to Pinata 3's impressive menu, including Albondigas (meat ball soup), traditional Mexican breakfasts, and the famous Whole Red Snapper, delectable homemade pastries (desserts) and after dinner drinks are not to be missed. Perhaps most impressive about La Pinata 3 is the popular Tequila Bar. Serving the largest variety of 100% Agave tequilas in Alameda, and perhaps the entire East Bay, the tequila bar at La Pinata 3 is guaranteed to turn you in to a return guest. La Pinata 3 is open daily from 7am to 3am, and Happy Hour is from 4-5pm M-F. Weekend Specials and a \$9.50 Sunday Brunch are also available. www.lapinata.com (Look for La Pinata #6 opening mid-August in Concord with 2 tequila bars!)

Sabuy Sabuy II

1233 San Pablo, Berkeley (510) 528-3932
Enjoy Thai cuisine with California flair at the new Sabuy Sabuy II. Your visit will begin with a warm greeting, welcoming you to experience Sabuy Sabuy's specialties: savory soups, salads, delicious meat and vegetarian dishes, all prepared with only the most fresh vegetables and meats by family cooks with decades of experience. Dinner is served M-Sa from 5-9:30pm. Lunch is served daily from 11am - 3pm with specials starting at \$5.95.

Monday - Friday
11:00 am - 4:30 pm

THE WHOLE ENCHILADA, 1/2 the Price!

50% Discount on all Enchilada Platters
and listed Enchilada Combinations!



"Western Cooking with a Mexican Accent"

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These promotion prices/items not valid with any other coupon or promotional code.

"We Are The Tequila Experts!"

THE DINING GUIDE

Featured Menu

Montclair Bistro

NOW SERVING LUNCH THURSDAY & FRIDAYS,
& SUNDAY BRUNCH!

Montclair Bistro

Lunch

(Thursdays and Fridays)

Starters

Crispy chicken filets, roasted red pepper dip 7.

Char grilled spinach salad, endive, almonds, toasts, lemon dressing 6.

Bistro Caesar, roasted croutons, parmesan Reggiano, anchovies 7.

Field greens, pears, gorgonzola, walnuts, balsamic vinaigrette 7.

Champagne potato leek bisque, chives 6.

Entrees

Roasted breast of chicken, prosciutto, sage, gruyere, pan jus 16.

Blackened Pacific salmon kabob, sautéed greens, organic tomato and citrus vinaigrettes, corn polenta 17.

Bistro Black Angus Delmonico steak, truffled bordelaise, spinach, Colbert butter, 21.

Panko crusted sole, wasabi beurre blanc, greens, Jasmine rice, trio of tobiko caviars 17.

Summer ratatouille-succotash of roasted corn and vegetables in season, steamed rice 14.

Braised beef Bourguignon, caramelized onions, assorted mushrooms, greens, steamed rice 14.

Bistro Caesar, roasted croutons, parmesan Reggiano, anchovies, choice of chicken breast or blackened salmon kabob 14.

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*Montclair Bistro is available for private events.

Cafe Enrico

Since 1978, 875D Island Drive, Alameda, (510) 522-0128

For fine Italian dining at its best, visit Cafe Enrico overlooking the beautiful Harbor Bay lagoon. Full bar service features special cocktails daily with exceptional wine selections. From gourmet seafood plates to Old World pastas, chicken dishes, sandwiches and even a diet menu, Cafe Enrico truly offers something to please everyone. In fact, many guests dine in two and three times a week. Enrico's famous Lobster Tail Dinner (\$20.95 after 6 pm) and house specialty steamers (Manila clams and fresh seafood cioppino) are not to be missed. Cafe Enrico is open daily. Sat & Sun Brunch is served until 3 pm and Early Bird Specials (12.95) are served Mon-Fri until 6 pm and Sat & Sun until 5 pm. For Reservations, please call (510) 522-0129. MC, Visa, AMEX, handicap access. Casual attire. \$5

El Caballo

891B Island Drive (Harbor Bay Island), Alameda, (510) 521-4032

Family-owned El Caballo Mexican Restaurant has had a long-standing reputation for preparing delicious traditional dishes from scratch using nothing but the freshest ingredients of the highest quality. El Caballo is famous for their Especialidades De Mariscos (seafood specialties) including Paella Estilo Catalina, Cioppino Siete Madres, Enchiladas Cabo San Lucas, and many others. In addition to delicious seafood entrees, El Caballo offers an impressive menu of Mexican favorites to please every palate. The family and staff at El Caballo have made it their utmost priority to offer you, their guests, a pleasant and relaxing dining experience. You are invited to enjoy authentic Mexican dining with a view over beautiful Harbor Bay Lagoon.

Cafe Enrico

Italian Restaurant

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1465 Webster Street, Alameda, (510) 749-8461

West Alameda's newest restaurant, Katsu Sushi, invites guests to an upscale dining experience with classic simplicity. Chef Sang Kim prepares all dishes from scratch and seafood is brought in fresh, directly from Japan. The menu is extensive, ranging from an extraordinary selection of sushi and sashimi, Udon/Soba, Donburi (over rice dishes), to pasta and an impressive variety of sake. Architect Duk Lee has created a dramatic backdrop for guests, marrying modern art with traditional design elements. Attention to even the most minor aesthetic detail is also mirrored in the elegant presentation of Katsu's dishes, offerings that are as much a work of art to the palate as to the eye. Katsu is open for lunch M-S from 11:30am to 2:30pm and open for dinner every day from 5-9:30pm. Reservations recommended.

Montclair Bistro

6118 Medau Place, Montclair Village, (510) 482-8282

Chef Henry Vortriede's philosophy of his restaurant, Montclair Bistro, is Merix Cuisine, which he finds is "a synergy between the food on the table, the art on the walls, and the ambience of the restaurant. The result is a feeling of comfort and harmony between the food and the surroundings". The Bistro's cuisine is Creative California with a French Flair and offers gourmet delicacies for even the most discriminating palate. The dining experience is enhanced with a full bar and more than 150 wines and Vintage Ports. Montclair Bistro offers lunch, dinner, Happy Hour and Sunday Brunch. Please visit our ad for hours of operation. Reservations are recommended but not required. Visit www.montclairbistro.com

Pier 29 Waterfront Restaurant

300 - 29th Avenue, Oakland (510) 261-1621

Good food, friendly service, and comfortable atmosphere describe Pier 29 Waterfront Restaurant. For over 30 years the restaurant has been located adjacent to the Park Street Bridge overlooking the Alameda/Oakland estuary. The "Pier" offers an extensive menu featuring fresh seafood, angus New York steak, prime rib, pasta, teriyaki ribs, daily specials, and much more. The theme in the kitchen is "good homestyle cooking". Brunch is served on weekends from 9 am - 3 pm and the popular earlybird menu is featured daily. Every table has a view of the water and there is plenty of free parking. The Pier is open 7 days a week. New business hours: Sun. - Thurs. 9 a.m. - 10 p.m., Fri. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 11 p.m. - Breakfast - Lunch - Dinner.

Sophia Cafe

1247 Solano Ave., Albany (510) 526-8663

Sophia Cafe is a tiny haven for Middle Eastern food. Owner Moti Dagan makes entrees and baked goods with a personal touch. For dinner enjoy schnitzel, mousakka (sliced eggplant dish with ground beef) or the cous cous plate. Finish with a delightful dessert made in-house. For a limited time, enjoy any entree on the menu for only \$7.95. Offer valid only with mention of ad from 5-9pm. Take out and catering menus available upon request. Open Sun-Fri 11-9pm.

Sushi House

2375 Shoreline Drive, Alameda (510) 865-8008

When it comes to sushi, one place on the island comes to mind. Come experience why locals & out-of-towners alike flock to Sushi House. Whether you're a fan of modern or traditional Japanese cuisine, Sushi House will delight your senses with unique, award-winning sushi creations not found elsewhere on either side of the Bay. You've tried the rest. Now try the best! All seafood is delivered daily to ensure unrivaled quality & freshness. Showcasing these excellent beginnings are chef/owner James' own creations such as "Crazy Horse" - tuna, hamachi, salmon & avocado; "Crazy Monkey" - yellow tail, salmon, eel, robiko and cucumber; & "Dynamite" - yellow tail, salmon, tuna & halibut deep fried w/house special sauce - spicy! Frequent Sushi House diners John & Salle Crittenden agreed that "James is a real artist & his sushi is the freshest we've ever tasted". Sushi House is open nonstop from 11 am. to 9:30 p.m. Sunday through Thursday & 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday & Saturday. Plenty of free parking. From an intimate date to a big celebration, Sushi House is the hip & trendy place to be in Alameda! AE MC VS \$\$. Open Sun-Fri 11-9pm.

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Phone: 510-865-8008 • Dine In or Take Out

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I was raised in Thailand and after leaving, I've been on constant search for authentic Thai Cuisine. Toomie's is the best!

Thai food in the Bay Area.

Monica Almonte
World Traveler and Alameda Resident

We love Toomie's. We've been here 6 times in the last 14 days. We can't get enough.

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\$10⁹⁵ - \$11⁹⁵ • Soup or Salad - Entree - Dessert

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At the foot of the Park St. Bridge in Oakland. Next to the Estuary.

Plenty of Free Parking. Banquet Facility Available.



THE GREAT RAID, which co-stars Freddie Joe Farnsworth, James Franco and Benjamin Bratt, is set in 1945 and focuses on a mission to rescue POWs from a prison camp.

Great Raid' is best as a history lesson

By Mary F. Pols
STAFF WRITER

"The Great Raid" is proof that a gripping war story doesn't guarantee an equally compelling movie. Director John Dahl's main achievement here is not cinematic, but rather historical: It will introduce new generations to a chapter of War World II history that deserves more attention than it has gotten.

The movie is set in 1945, when the brutal war in the Pacific is winding down. General MacArthur has returned to the Philippines, the country he fled in 1942 under Japanese attack. About 70,000 American and Filipino troops were left behind. Many of them died on the 65-mile Bataan Death March, others in POW camps.

When MacArthur returns three years later, only 500 POWs are still alive and being held in a camp at Capas. It's understood that a Japanese plan to execute them when American forces draw near so stealth and speed are essential if they are to be rescued. After three years, the prisoners are emaciated, demoralized, lot. Their commanding officer is Major Gibson (Joseph Fiennes), nearly weakened from malnutrition and malaria. What keeps him going is the need to put on a strong face for his men and his unconsummated love for Margaret (Connie Nielsen), a Catholic worker who helps smuggle medicine to the prisoners.

Leading the secret mission is

REVIEW

■ WHAT: "The Great Raid"

■ STARRING: Benjamin Bratt, James Franco, Connie Nielsen, Joseph Fiennes

■ RATING: R (strong war violence, brief language)

■ RUNNING TIME: 2 hours, 12 minutes

■ WHERE: Opens today at area theaters

■ GRADE: C+

■ ONLINE: See the movie trailer for "The Great Raid" at ContraTimes.com

Lt. Colonel Henry Mucci (Benjamin Bratt), a cigar-chomping egotist. He's appointed recent Stanford graduate Captain Robert Prince (James Franco) to come up with a strategy to slip past much greater Japanese forces and rescue these poor souls. Prince has no combat experience, but he's got common sense. And unlike Mucci, he's smart enough to know to accept an offer of help from some Filipino guerrillas.

"The Great Raid" has an old-fashioned feel — that is, old-fashioned in a musty way. The Japanese soldiers and officers are all vilified as cruel and cold-hearted. At times the film appears to have been given a sepia tint, which only heightens the awkward sense of artificiality. Mucci and Prince sound like characters out of an old movie when they talk;

their dialogue feels scripted, not organic. And it doesn't help that Franco is dull and Bratt only looks like a leading man.

The same is true of the conversations between Gibson and his best buddy in the prison camp, the volatile Redding (Mark Wahlberg), who watches over Gibson as tenderly as he might a newborn babe. The difference is that Wahlberg, a chameleon of an actor last seen in "The Bourne Supremacy" and "Kingdom of Heaven," manages to sell us on Redding's devotion. One minute you're thinking, geez, this sounds like cheesy buddy talk out of an old John Wayne movie. The next, you're thinking, yeah, but I believe it. That's no mean feat, considering that Fiennes is so unbearably dramatic. It's as if "Shakespeare in Love" had set the tone for his whole career; he can only play divas now.

He and Nielsen have virtually no scenes together, and it's a good thing — her Margaret is so charismatic and adult, we can't imagine her wasting time with this pouty boy-man. Their love story feels manufactured in part because it was; Margaret is a composite of various women who worked with the Filipino underground.

But once the actual raid begins, the film's pace picks up considerably. We end up absorbed in a story we could have walked away from a half-hour before. Dahl, who is best known for his stylish noir films "Red Rock West" and "The Last Seduction," takes a very

straightforward approach. The action doesn't seem staged, nor does Dahl cut wildly back and forth the way so many directors do when confronting with creating war action. Rather, he lets the raid unfold almost in real time, so that we almost feel as if we're there, experiencing those strange moments of quiet amid the confusion of combat.

Tellingly, the most memorable moments of "The Great Raid" are the last few, when Dahl rolls documentary footage and still photographs of the real prisoners of war and their triumphant return to the United States, disembarking at San Francisco's Ferry Building. To see those real faces, thin, worn, jubilant, is a truly moving experience, much more so than the dramatic re-creation Dahl has given us.

Reach Mary F. Pols at mpols@ccTimes.com or 925-945-4741.

AUDITIONS

Bonita Old Town Theatre Group — "On Golden Pond," four men ages 13-19 and two women ages 30-80. 1-3 p.m. Aug. 21 at 601 First St., Benicia, and 7-8 p.m. Aug. 22 at BDES Hall, 140 W. J St., Benicia. Cold read from script. 707-745-2118.

Berkeley Repertory Theatre —

Seeking boy and girl sopranos, 13

years and younger, for productions of "Bundt" and "Comedy on the Bridge." Sept. 10 and 11 at Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 2071 Addison St., Berkeley. Prepare 16 bars of a song and movement component. Appt.: 510-668-3275 or <http://berkeleyrep.org>.

Castille Youth Singers — Auditions for fall enrollment for all levels of choirs, Aug. 17 and 18. Students are asked to sing a song of their choosing. Foothills Congregational Church, 461 Orange Ave., Los Altos. Appt.: 650-424-1410 or www.castille.org.

Contra Costa Chorus — Seeking new sopranos and soloists for 2005-06 season. The chorus is a nonprofit, community-based chorus with a mission to bring music to a variety of styles to Bay area audiences. 510-524-1861.

Contra Costa Wind Symphony — Principal trumpet and section first chair. Appt.: 925-944-5392 or <http://CCWindSymphony.org>.

Contra Costa Youth Orchestra — Fall rehearsals for more than 50 Contra Costa middle and high school music students. Mr. Mazmar, 510-254-5823. www.contracostaorchestra.org

Contra Costa Youth Chorus — Placement interviews are now being held for the 2005-06 chorus year. Boys and girls ages 7-15. Program includes singing of varied repertoire in several languages, sight-singing and performing. 510-945-7101, Ext. 200.

Danville Community Band — Looking for a bassoon player and a percussionist for 85-member band. Intermediate to advanced level. Rehearsals: 7 a.m. Aug. 12, 925-736-1973.

Danville Mountain Chorus — Men's four-part harmony rehearsals and songfests, 7-10 p.m. Tuesdays, Trinity Fellowship Chapel, 2317 Buena Vista Ave., Walnut Creek. Public performances provided (a recording is necessary for auditions). 925-938-7664.

Danville Vista Chorus — Seeking

women to sing a cappella, four-part harmony. Free vocal instruction and performance opportunities offered to chorus members. Auditions scheduled through September, 7:15 p.m. Tuesdays at Faith Christian Fellowship Church, 860 Bancroft Road, Walnut Creek. 925-295-0985.

Las Positas College — "Nickel and Dimed," 7:30 p.m. Aug. 24 and 25, 3033 Collier Canyon Road, Livermore. Bring short prepared monologues. Performances Nov. 11-20. 925-424-1166 or kross@aspositoscollege.edu.

Missouri Street Theatre — "The Rocky Horror Picture Show," 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Aug. 27 and 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Sept. 3. All roles open; prepare 32 bars of up-tempo song. Appointments: 707-422-1598.

Moving Arts Dance — Open auditions for two pre-professional dance companies, Momentum and JazzCo, throughout August. SOLAD Dance Center, 2260 Oak Grove Road, Walnut Creek. Appointments: 925-938-3390.

Oakland Young Orchestra — Final round of auditions for upcoming season for musicians ages 13-22, through August. To request application, e-mail Manager@oyo.org or 510-832-7710.

Ohlone College — "The Laramie Project," 6-9 p.m. Aug. 22 and 23. Cold readings or prepared monologues. Individuals interested in design, publicity, special effects or production are encouraged to call or visit. Smith Center, 43600 Mission Blvd., Fremont. 510-659-6207.

OnStage Theatre — "Artichoke," 7:30 p.m. Aug. 22 and 23, 2050 Oak Park Blvd., Pleasant Hill. Looking for one girl age 14, one woman, five men ages 30 to late 50s. Read from script. 925-837-3276.

Pittsburg Community Theatre — "Arsenic and Old Lace," 7:30 p.m. Aug. 15 and 16. Pittsburg United Methodist Church, 153 W. Leland St., Pittsburg. 925-439-4384.

Pleasant Hill Haunted House — Need 50 teenage volunteers for various production duties, including planning, acting, lighting and sound. 1-3 p.m. Sept. 10 at Pleasant Hill Park's Teen Center, 147 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill. 925-682-0896.

Role Players Ensemble Theatre — "Red Hot & Cole," 7 p.m. Aug. 18 23 Front St., Danville. Showcase of Cole Porter. By appointment. 925-820-1278.

San Francisco Girls Chorus — Seeking girls ages 7-12 for East Bay

Chorus School Program, Aug. 27 by appointment. Mormon Temple Interstake Program, 4780 Lincoln Ave., Oakland. Program provides training in vocal technique, sight-singing, study skills and music theory. Tuition assistance based on financial need is available. East Bay choruses rehearse in Oakland. 415-863-1752, Ext. 321.

Silver Wings Repertory — Troupe of performers 50 and older invites singers, dancers and monologists to entertain twice a month at local retirement facilities. \$5 annual dues. 925-672-2525.

Town Hall Theatre Company — "Peter and Wendy," Sept. 25, Town Hall Theatre, 3535 School St., Lafayette. Travel stipend for traveling from outside Contra Costa County. Appointments: 925-283-6673; Visit www.thtc.org.

UC Alumni Chorus — Comprised primarily of alumni, faculty, staff and grad students, the chorus will hold auditions beginning Aug. 22 on Mondays from 7:30-10 p.m. on the UC Berkeley campus. 510-643-9645 Ext. 2; <http://ucac.net>.

Jazz

FROM PAGE C10

Jazz Piano Book and The Jazz Theory Book, and was nominated for a Grammy award last year.

The 2005 Downtown Berkeley Jazz Festival will also feature daily noon concerts at the Berkeley BART Station, and related events such as a film at Landmark's Act 1 & 2 Theatres and poetry readings at the Berkeley Public Library, including a reading by California Poet Laureate Al Young.

A "Latin percussion petting zoo" where novices can learn to play a variety of percussion instruments, including congas, bongos and timbales, is also on the program. It will be held at the Berkeley BART Station plaza from 11 a.m. to noon Saturday.

"I thought I'd like to celebrate Berkeley," Muscarella said of the event.

—By David F. Farnsworth

Staff Writer

Photo by David F. Farnsworth

Staff Writer

Arts & Leisure

Friday, August 12, 2005



J.B. ALDERMAN
On DVDs

It's not too late to join 'Entourage'

ENTOURAGE: THE COMPLETE FIRST SEASON

I'M NOT the brightest bulb in the pack, which means I ignored my wife as she was urging me to sit with her and watch the first season of HBO's Hollywood insider comedy hit "Entourage" when it aired last year. But like all late bloomers, I've finally come round and am soaking up every episode of the currently airing second season.

If you too committed this sin and are just now learning the pleasures of Johnny Drama (Kevin Dillon) and Ari Gold (Jeremy Piven), fear not: All of the episodes from the first season are available on DVD. Rent the discs and see what you've been missing. (NR: sex and language). 4 hours.

Ratings (out of 4 stars):
Overall: 3 stars
Kids: 1½ stars
Teens: 3½ stars
Adults: 3 stars
Seniors: 2 stars
Should you rent it? Yes — Witty look at the life of a Hollywood star and his circle of cronies.

THE BALLAD OF JACK AND ROSE

Set in 1986 on an East Coast island and populated with idealistic hippies living off the land, "Jack and Rose" jolted me straight back to my days as an undergraduate at College of the Atlantic in Maine. The nostalgia for my days surrounded by people who made their own hemp clothing quickly faded as this DVD became mired in clichés.

Written and directed by Rebecca Miller (wife of the film's star Daniel Day-Lewis), the DVD tries to be a moving portrayal of an unnaturally close relationship between a dying father and his teenage daughter. But it fails. The weak script left me disliking the characters and wishing them all ill. Some high school students may relate to the angst teens in the DVD, but for the rest of us it's not worth watching. (R: language and sex). 1 hour and 52 minutes.

Ratings (out of 4 stars):
Overall: 2 stars
Kids: ½ star
Teens: 3½ stars
Adults: 2 stars
Seniors: 1 star
Should you rent it? No — Depressing without a purpose.

DEAR FRANKIE

Sweet is the best way to describe this little film set in Scotland about a deaf boy who longs for contact with his seafaring father. Yes, this is another DVD out of the UK that features permanently gray skies and characters who live hardscrabble lives. If you like these kinds of 'bangers and mash' movies — and I do — then you'll be pleased with this DVD.

Terrific performances by Emily Mortimer and Jack McElhine make "Dear Frankie" a charming winner. Moms will relate to the film for its touching look at what one mother does to make her son happy. The DVD's language didn't offend me, and it's fine for kids as young as 10. (PG-13: language). 1 hour and 45 minutes.

Ratings (out of 4 stars):

Overall: 3 stars
Kids: 2 stars
Teens: 2 stars
Adults: 3 stars
Seniors: 3 stars
Should you rent it? Yes — Endearing mother/son love story.

J.B. Alderman lives in Berkeley and can be reached via PhDVD.com.



Sand, water and imagination



SAND SCULPTOR Kirk Rademaker, top, combines precision tools with lots of patience to create detailed castles. His work never fails to attract attention, above.

Sculptor creates from tiny grains make big impression

By Peggy Spear
STAFF WRITER

THIS MAY COME as a surprise, but the most important ingredient in creating the perfect sandcastle isn't sand.

It's water. "With enough water, you can get even the worst sand to work for you," says Oakland's Kirk Rademaker.

As possibly the Bay Area's only professional sand sculptor, Rademaker knows his sand and he makes a living from an office most of us could only dream of: the beach of the Pacific Ocean.

In fact, he says he knows

TRY YOUR HAND AT SAND

Are you heading to the beach this month and planning some sandcastle fun? We want to see it. Snap a digital photo of your sand sculpture, and e-mail it to Peggy Spear at pspear@ccetimes.com by Aug. 29. We will run a "photo gallery" on Sept. 3.

"every beach from Big Sur to Bodega," and he certainly has his favorites for building sand sculptures: Pajaro Dunes south of Santa Cruz, and Doran Beach in Sonoma County.

He discovered his calling in

1997 during a "bad spell" in his life.

"I would go to Stinson Beach to just be by myself, and to sort things out," he says. "I started building sandcastles, and it was amazing how therapeutic that could be."

The best thing, he says, is that it's a social activity. "Everybody came up and talked to me about what you're building, so I didn't feel lonely."

He found other sand enthusiasts, and became part of a network of sculptors who participate in sandcastle competitions worldwide. He discovered that he was able to tap into a market of people who wanted to pay for

the chance to learn how to build sandcastles. Add to that kids' birthday parties, corporate team-building events and educational programs, and he'd sculpted a living for himself.

He's also reaped some unexpected benefits along the way, doing private parties for Hollywood stars, as well as holiday events for the LucasFilm folks.

On this sunny Friday, he isn't on a beach but outside the Lawrence Hall of Science in the Berkeley hills, crafting a 5-foot castle as part of a weekend program. Just as he said, the activity draws curious onlookers of all ages. The castle is halfway fin-

ished, but already it has the younger crowd won over.

"Is that Cinderella's castle?" asks one young girl.

"Neither — it's from a movie," Rademaker says.

But believe it or not, he doesn't enjoy making castles. He prefers elaborate medieval shapes, but decided that was at hand — which was a better use as a medieval castle.

"I'm a sand sculptor," he says.

Spoken like a true artist.

Reach Peggy Spear at pspear@ccetimes.com or pspear@ccetimes.com.

Berkeley's downtown poised for debut of jazz fest

■ More than 40 events are scheduled throughout downtown locales

By Dorothy Vriend
CORRESPONDENT

The sounds of Latin jazz will be everywhere next week as the Downtown Berkeley Jazz Festival makes its debut Thursday through Sunday, with an opening celebration scheduled for Wednesday evening.

This jazz festival is the brainchild of Susan Muscarella, founder of The Jazzschool, which opened in 1997 and moved to its current location on Addison Street in 2002.

"This gives me an opportunity to work on two of my fa-

IF YOU GO

■ WHAT: Downtown Berkeley Jazz Festival
■ WHEN: Aug. 18-21
■ WHERE: Various Berkeley locations. For a full schedule of events for the 2005 Downtown Berkeley Jazz Festival, go to www.jazzschool.com or call 510-845-5373 for more information.

vorite things: promoting downtown Berkeley and promoting jazz," Muscarella said.

More than 40 events are scheduled throughout downtown locales such as Anna's Jazz Island, the Downtown Restaurant, La Note Restaurant, the Shattuck Down Low Lounge and Jupiter. Scheduled per-

formers include jazz pianist Mark Levine, guitarist Mimi Fox, trombonist Wayne Wallace, singer Maria Marquez, percussionist John Santos, keyboardist Marcos Silva and pianist Rebecca Mauleon.

Levine, who will be performing at The Jazzschool at 8 p.m. Aug. 20, and conducting a workshop there at 4 p.m., said the jazz scene in Berkeley has grown tremendously in recent years. Levine said it has not only grown but found a neighborhood to identify with in downtown Berkeley. The scene developed around The Jazzschool and the Downtown Restaurant, La Note Restaurant, which features jazz and blues performers Tuesdays through Sundays; Anna's Jazz Island

just east of Shattuck Avenue on Allston Way; and other nearby venues.

"I lived in Berkeley from 1974 to 1992 or 1993. There was a jazz scene at the time, composed mostly of funky clubs that nobody enjoyed playing," Levine said. "They had terrible pianos, terrible club owners and lousy money. The jazz scene was not a healthy one. Now it has coalesced into this situation where people all around the country are talking about it."

Levine teaches jazz piano and songwriting at The Jazzschool during the fall semester and also performs there. He has written two well-received books on jazz education, The

See JAZZ, Page C9



MARIA MARQUEZ, right, with the Mana Marquez Quintet at the Downtown Restaurant on Addison Street at 8 p.m. Aug. 18.

WEEKLY SALES

ALAMEDA

1500 Alameda D - \$480,000
1040 Auburn Dr - \$530,000
1141 Ball Ln - \$550,000
2819 Burcher Av - \$740,000
118 Capetown - \$1,010,000
1305 Central Av - \$905,000
202 Chinaberry Ln - \$685,000
1007 Fair Oaks - \$810,000
3307 Fir Av - \$650,000
452 Haight Av - \$585,000
43 Inverness - \$730,000
26 Leonard Ct - \$683,000
5647 Norman Ln - \$604,000
2925 Northwood - \$1,250,000
2706 Orts Dr P - \$449,000
2154 Pacific Av - \$905,000
617 Pacific Av - \$466,000
1 Parish Ct - \$695,000
1010 San Antonio - \$680,000
1001 Shoreline - \$561,500
680 Shorepoint 105 - \$365,000
2708 Washington St - \$659,000
1311 Webster E100 - \$388,000

CARMEN

920 Carmel Av - \$806,000
655 Pierce St 739 - \$341,000
1037 Santa Fe Av - \$980,000

CLOVELEY

2516 10th St - \$365,500
1411 15th St - \$689,000
172 Arch St - \$1,600,000
192 Blake St - \$725,000
121 Buena Av - \$770,000
1447 California - \$649,000
618 Capistrano - \$842,000
749 Fulton St - \$665,000
719 Grant St - \$675,000
515 Hilgard 4 - \$755,000
276 Hillside Av - \$729,000
330 Hopkins St - \$825,000
219 Kains Av - \$525,000
44 Keefer Av - \$800,000
700 Le Conte 202 - \$450,000
2430 MLK Jr Wy - \$665,000
2705 Mathews St - \$431,500
1516 Parker St - \$675,000
1918 Parker St - \$860,000
1918 Park St - \$690,000
216 Prince St - \$750,000
2165 Roosevelt - \$660,000
2110 Russell St - \$825,000
2204 Sacramento - \$642,500
1656 Scenic Av 4 - \$580,000
177 Spruce St - \$1,330,000
40 Tamalpais - \$1,100,000
1601 Tyler St - \$605,000
214 Valley St - \$710,000
2385 Valley St - \$592,000
2841 Webster 3 - \$360,000
2265 Alva Av - \$860,000

329 Behrens St - \$865,000
3034 Carlson Bl - \$480,000
236 Carmel Av - \$677,000
637 Everett St - \$650,000
7315 Gladys Av - \$631,000
5304 MacDonald - \$549,000
920 Norwell St - \$661,000
7110 View Av - \$1,100,000

EL SOBRANTE

700 Alhambra Rd - \$439,000
804 Del Valle Cr - \$343,000
3888 Linden Ln - \$460,000
1120 Mitchell Wy - \$546,000
515 Sunny Ln - \$650,000

EMERYVILLE

1121 40th St - \$109,000
1281 64th St - \$600,000
1200 65th St 209 - \$10,000
7 Captain C212 - \$500,000
1 Captain Dr D363 - \$355,000
6363 Christie 1306 - \$715,000
6363 Christie 1905 - \$445,000
6363 Christie 2126 - \$695,000
112 City Limits - \$581,000
113 City Limits - \$570,000
114 City Limits - \$577,000
102 Liquid Sugar - \$273,500
1366 Powell St - \$158,000

KENSINGTON

267 Colusa Av - \$639,000

OAKLAND

2137 102nd Av - \$360,000
1350 106th Av - \$450,000
1800 108th Av - \$430,000
2318 11th Av - \$400,000
2346 14th Av - \$344,500
2031 18th Av - \$438,000
1645 20th Av - \$495,000
865 20th St - \$385,000
2240 23rd Av - \$420,000
1522 27th Av - \$615,000
532 30th St 1 - \$335,000
532 30th St 13 - \$355,000
532 30th St 20 - \$395,000
729 32nd St - \$419,000
831 35th Av - \$425,000
1551 36th Av - \$620,000
1976 38th Av - \$453,000
2187 39th Av - \$557,000
659 39th St - \$389,000
1651 47th Av - \$550,000
825 51st St - \$585,000
925 53rd Av B - \$565,000
962 54th St - \$725,000
976 55th St - \$342,000
1824 57th Av - \$405,000
635 59th St - \$601,000
2714 60th Av - \$485,000
2938 60th Av - \$340,000
969 60th St - \$325,000

2527 61st Av - \$467,000
520 61st St - \$375,000
1035 70th Av - \$440,000
1043 76th Av - \$545,000
2665 77th Av - \$375,000
2001 81st Av - \$400,000
1038 83rd Av - \$420,000
1515 8th Av - \$458,000
2141 94th Av - \$100,000
617 Aileen St - \$745,000
5909 Almaden - \$875,000
569 Almanza Dr - \$446,000
49 Anair Wy - \$442,000
4028 Ardley Av - \$715,000
5620 Ascot Dr - \$825,000
2803 Atwell Av - \$659,000
424 Avon St - \$1,029,000
1433 Barrows Rd - \$975,000
143 Beaurose - \$707,000
110 Beechwood - \$2,100,000
1122 Besito Av - \$1,400,000
6940 Bristol Dr - \$1,375,000
13085 Broadway Tr - \$869,000
6350 Broadway Tr - \$1,090,000
608 Brooklyn Av - \$750,000
280 Caldecott 116 - \$385,000
348 Caswell Av - \$370,000
2332 Church St - \$451,000
94 City Limits Cr - \$532,000
5050 Cole St - \$595,000
6050 Contra Costa - \$1,408,000
4282 Coolidge Av - \$775,000
231 Cross Rd - \$972,000
2716 Darnby Dr - \$1,300,000
1138 East 15th St - \$555,000
2142 East 19th St - \$518,000
2119 East 21st St - \$519,000
2918 East 22nd St - \$416,000
2640 East 23rd St - \$415,000
1116 East 33rd St - \$752,000
6804 Eastlawn St - \$410,000
1 El Carmello Cr - \$837,000
4753 El Centro Av - \$850,000
1050 Elmhurst Av - \$355,000
6155 Fairlane Dr - \$1,235,000
55 Fairmount 101 - \$290,000
55 Fairmount 207 - \$283,000
55 Fairmount 209 - \$283,000
55 Fairmount 302 - \$390,000
597 Fairmount Av - \$700,000
10724 Fallbrook Wy - \$730,000
2312 Fruitvale Av - \$575,000
8078 Greenridge - \$825,000
449 Hale Av - \$450,000
2969 Hedge Ct - \$689,000
52 Heritage - \$554,000
2510 Highland Av - \$615,000
733 Hillgirt Cr - \$1,200,000
9628 Holly St - \$350,000
5530 Holway St - \$515,000
6106 Holway St - \$390,000
1061 Hubert Rd - \$1,045,000
1717 Indian Wy - \$861,000
1227 International - \$715,000
2637 Inyo Av - \$390,000
385 Jayne Av 306 - \$301,000
555 Jean St 430 - \$320,000
555 Jean St 627 - \$250,000

1 Lakeside 1003 - \$598,000
1 Lakeside 1106 - \$412,000
1 Lakeside 1206 - \$410,000
1 Lakeside 1806 - \$435,000
5260 Lawton Av - \$1,056,000
2917 MacArthur 3A - \$365,000
3760 Malcolm Av - \$735,000
3614 Mangels Av - \$310,000
3715 MLK Jr Wy - \$625,000
4212 Masterson - \$550,000
2489 Mavis St - \$400,000
3883 Maybelle Av - \$445,000
817 Mead Av - \$530,000
7882 Michigan - \$413,000
193 Montecito 202 - \$450,000
8723 Mountain 24 - \$420,000
97 Mountain Valley - \$610,000
2901 Octavia St - \$725,000
3321 Over St - \$508,000
2257 Park Bl - \$800,000
2744 Park Bl - \$608,000
13068 Parkhurst - \$750,000
10 Pembroke Ct - \$855,000
365 Perkins St 206 - \$396,000
3414 Pierson St - \$421,000
3716 San Juan St - \$510,000
7955 Sanford St - \$401,000
3459 School St - \$455,000
79 Selkirk St - \$860,000
191 Sequoyah View - \$828,000
5108 Shaffer Av - \$553,000
2822 Short St - \$446,000
77 Starview Dr - \$800,000
3041 Suter St - \$470,000
689 Sycamore St - \$152,000
851 Trestle Glen - \$1,557,000
1471 Tucker St - \$515,000
4305 Webster St - \$912,000
3 W Em'adro 146 - \$278,500
709 W MacArthur - \$625,000
873 Wood St - \$415,000
400 Worth St - \$400,000

PIEDMONT

771 Kingston Av - \$252,000
115 Lexington Rd - \$3,350,000
124 Magnolia Av - \$975,000
101 Requa Rd - \$1,715,000
1121 Rose Av - \$850,000

RICHMOND

618 27th St - \$579,000
545 32nd St - \$430,000
662 4th St - \$360,000
123 7th St - \$390,000
684 7th St - \$365,000
422 Alamo Av - \$400,000
3033 Andrade - \$421,000
213 Barrett Av - \$412,000
208 Bayside Ct - \$485,000
54 Bayside Ct - \$373,000
69 Bayside Ct - \$344,000
72 Bayside Ct - \$392,000
94 Bayside Ct - \$442,000
5113 Creely Av - \$525,000
4814 Cutting Bl - \$355,000

SAN LORENZO

747 Galway Dr - \$430,000
1687 Genevieve - \$512,000
16747 Meekland - \$535,000
15990 Nielson - \$300,000
15819 P. Largavista - \$340,000
16063 Via Harriet - \$545,000
996 Via Honda - \$595,000
1700 Via Rancho - \$608,000
1890 Via Sarita - \$565,000

By the numbers

ALAMEDA

TOTAL SALES: 23
LOWEST PRICE: \$365,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,250,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$650,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$664,804

ALBANY

TOTAL SALES: 3
LOWEST PRICE: \$341,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$980,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$806,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$709,000

BERKELEY

TOTAL SALES: 1
LOWEST PRICE: \$480,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,100,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$661,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$697,000

EL CERRITO

TOTAL SALES: 9
LOWEST PRICE: \$480,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,600,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$806,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$1,264,686

EMERYVILLE

TOTAL SALES: 5
LOWEST PRICE: \$343,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$650,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$460,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$487,600

KENSINGTON

TOTAL SALES: 1
PRICE: \$639,000

OAKLAND

TOTAL SALES: 139
LOWEST PRICE: \$100,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$2,100,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$508,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$591,122

PIEDMONT

TOTAL SALES: 5
LOWEST PRICE: \$252,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$3,350,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$975,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$1,428,400

See SALES, Page D4

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|--|--|---|---|---|--|
| 2003 C230 Sports Coupe Only 28,000 miles VIN# A49889 \$22,950 | 2003 ML350 Only 24,000 miles VIN# A37818 \$26,950 | 2001 E320 Sedan Only 26,000 miles VIN# A27143 \$29,950 | 2001 CLK320 Coupe Only 18,000 miles VIN# A18363 \$29,950 | 2000 S500 Sedan Only 39,000 miles VIN# A10782 \$39,950 | 2001 SL500 Convertible Only 17,000 miles VIN# A19938 \$48,950 |
| 2004 C230 Sports Coupe Only 4,000 miles VIN# A61176 \$26,950 | 2004 ML350 Only 19,000 miles VIN# A49910 \$29,950 | 2003 E320 Sedan Only 29,000 miles VIN# A15399 \$39,950 | 1999 CLK430 Coupe Only 4,000 miles VIN# A06003 \$34,950 | 2002 S430 Sedan Only 37,000 miles VIN# A25828 \$47,950 | 2002 SL500 Sport Only 9,000 miles VIN# A20267 \$52,950 |
| 2005 C240 Sedan Only 7,000 miles VIN# A70237 \$29,950 | 2004 ML350 Only 12,000 miles VIN# A49490 \$30,950 | 2004 E320 Sedan Only 5,000 miles VIN# A40472 \$48,950 | 2004 CLK320 Convertible Only 14,000 miles VIN# A02821 \$49,950 | 2003 S500 Sedan Only 35,000 miles VIN# A35202 \$59,950 | 2003 SL500 Sport Only 4,000 miles VIN# A02309 \$85,950 |
| 2004 C240 Sedan Only 10,000 miles VIN# A01082 \$29,950 | 2004 ML350 Only 14,000 miles VIN# A46244 \$32,950 | 2004 E320 Sedan 4Matic Only 6,000 miles VIN# A16272 \$49,950 | 2002 CLK55 Convertible Only 10,000 miles VIN# A09846 \$54,950 | 2002 S55 AMG Only 44,000 miles VIN# A23040 \$59,950 | 2004 SL500 Convertible Only 9,000 miles VIN# A07889 \$88,950 |
| 2003 C230 Sports Sedan Only 24,000 miles VIN# A42408 \$29,950 | 2005 ML500 Only 7k miles VIN# A52674 \$39,950 | 2005 E320 Sedan Only 4,000 miles VIN# A65343 \$49,950 | 2004 CLK500 Convertible Only 15,000 miles VIN# A01170 \$59,950 | 2004 S500 Sport Only 20,000 miles VIN# A41001 \$69,950 | 2004 SL500 Sport Only 3,000 miles VIN# A07185 \$89,950 |

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'Make scents' while in the driver's seat

NAPSI

The average person spends more than 32 full days every year locked inside the confines of their car's interior.

Because smell plays such an important role in people's sensory perception, it's no wonder there are more than 46 million vehicles on the road with an air freshener.

What started 50 years ago by simply hanging thick paper that had been doused with cologne inside vehicles, has evolved into a multi-million dollar, sophisticated industry. Today, air fresheners are as high-tech as many electronic devices and come in an endless array of scents, designs, materials and state-of-the-art delivery systems.

Auto Expressions, a leading brand of automotive air fresheners, has introduced their latest innovation, Vent Fresh.

This new plastic disposable product features a scented oil diffuser that utilizes patent-pending technology to provide consumers with an adjustable, spill-resistant air

freshener. The air freshener is activated by an easy-to-use pull tab on the back. It is clipped directly to your car's air vent. When the car's air is turned on, either heat or air conditioning flows through the membrane holding liquid fragrance to freshen your car continually.

Sales

FROM PAGE D3

RICHMOND

TOTAL SALES: 43
LOWEST PRICE: \$312,500
HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,012,500
MEDIAN PRICE: \$421,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$482,930

SAN LEANDRO

TOTAL SALES: 24
LOWEST PRICE: \$260,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$760,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$566,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$562,104

ANTIOCH

TOTAL SALES: 9
LOWEST PRICE: \$300,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$608,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$540,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$514,444

This list is provided by California Resource, a real estate information company that obtains the information from the County Recorder's Office. Neither California Resource nor this newspaper guarantees the completeness or accuracy of the information. All questions should be directed to CalRes@calres.com.

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#A92230
#A92571



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Don't miss the 20th annual Sports & Classic Car Auction, August 19 - 20, in Monterey

rm auctions, Inc.
SILVERHILL, Ontario, Canada — RM's 2005 Monterey Sports & Classic Car Auction will surpass all other previous sales with ten outstanding automobiles with million-dollar potential up for bids as well as rare offerings of other important American and European marques. The Monterey Sports & Classic Car Auction will be the largest single offering of vintage automobiles in the history of the Monterey weekend with more than \$40 million in collectable vehicles crossing the auction block over the two-day sale.

"We always strive to find the most exceptional examples available: automobiles that are one-of-a-kind or so desirable that serious collectors from around the world dream about adding them to their collections," says Rob Myers of RM Auctions. "We have had great success selling investment quality components, which is why sellers feel comfortable entrusting us with their vehicles and why buyers look to us for the cream of the current collection market."

The "top ten" million dollar automobiles offered at RM's Monterey auction include:

1938 Talbot-Lago T150 C-SS Figoni et Falaschi Teardrop Coupe

A one-of-a-kind beauty that epitomizes the best of French coachbuilding with its seductive teardrop shaped body and fenders, this example (chassis #90034) represents the successful union of Talbot-Lago's winning T150 racing chassis and the handcrafted automotive work of Figoni et Falaschi's incredible coachbuilder design. This car has remained in Europe since new having enjoyed an early racing career including a class win at the 24 hours of Spa in 1948 and represents the first time a Teardrop Coupe of this caliber has come to auction in the United States. (Est: \$10,000,000 - \$40,000,000)

1960 Aston Martin DB4 GT

One of only 19 ever built, this impressive Zagato (chassis DB4GT 0199/L) is the second car ever hand-built and completed by famed coachbuilder Ugo Zagato. The special alloy bodied

Zagato features a more powerful engine than the standard GT producing 314 bhp and impressive performance figures even for today. Finished in Italian racing red with a deep black leather interior and carefully maintained by the same owner for the last 30 years. (Est: \$2,900,000 - \$3,200,000)

1953 Ferrari 375MM Spyder

The only example of the 375 MMi Miglia to be bodied by Scaglietti out of a total of twelve built. Chassis #0366AM features an outstandingly powerful 340 bhp, SOHC V12 engine mated with a four-speed fully synchronized gearbox, driven by a multi-plate clutch. Known racing history includes the Sweden and Portugal Grand Prix of the 1950's. A unique and rare pedigree respected for its brawn and its beauty. (Est: \$2,900,000 - \$3,200,000)

1964 Ford GT 40 Prototype

This is the car that won the 24 Hours of Daytona in 1965 with Ken Miles and Lloyd Ruby behind the wheel. Noted drivers Master Gregory, Ritchie Ginther and Phil Hill first introduced this particular car as a 1964 Ford Factory entry at Le Mans, Reims and Nassau. Sold to a private racing entrant in 1966, this GT 40 (chassis #103) has been owned by the same individual for the last 38 years and is painted in its 1966 racing livery. (Est: \$1,000,000 - \$1,400,000)

1951 Ferrari 340 America Berlinetta

A colorful history of ownership includes first owner Tommaso Sebastiani and Charlie Chaplin's son Sidney. This hot rod of sports racers is powered by the venerable 4.1 litre V12 and features a very rare, factory competition dry sump system. Of the twenty-three 340 models built and one of only two closed Berlinettas to receive Touring's superlative coachwork. (Est: \$950,000 - \$1,100,000)

1932 Alfa Romeo P3 Tipo B Monoposto

Representing one of the featured marques at the 2005 Pebble Beach Concours, this incredible Alfa Romeo open wheel racer was the pride of the legendary Scuderia Ferrari racing team. The car became known simply as the "P3" (chassis #5006) as it obliterated its competition throughout the 1932 Grand Prix season, winning all three championship races at Monza, the famed 14-mile Nürburgring, and Rheims. One of only six P3s built for the season. (Est: \$2,000,000 - \$2,500,000)

1958 Ferrari 250 GT Tour de France Berlinetta

One of the most attractive, powerful and significant Ferraris of its

time, this 250 GT possesses a beautiful Scaglietti body designed by Pininfarina. This car is the last Tour de France built in 1959 (chassis #1161GT) and competed at the Lime Rock and Bridgehampton race tracks. With a documented history since new, this particular 250 GT has also competed in the Shell Historic Ferrari Challenge and the Monterey Historics. (Est: \$1,400,000 - \$1,700,000)

1938 Mercedes-Benz 540K Special Roadster

This stunning example of German perfection received a high quality re-body to Special Roadster configuration, employing correct 540K matching numbers mechanical components and correct 5.4-liter supercharged engine. The centerpiece of the Berlin Motor Show in 1937, it was the automobile of choice of royalty and international celebrities. A stunning automobile finished in a handsome burgundy coat with a supple beige leather interior. (Est: \$1,000,000 - \$1,400,000)

1951 Ferrari 340 America Berlinetta

A colorful history of ownership includes first owner Tommaso Sebastiani and Charlie Chaplin's son Sidney. This hot rod of sports racers is powered by the venerable 4.1 litre V12 and features a very rare, factory competition dry sump system. Of the twenty-three 340 models built and one of only two closed Berlinettas to receive Touring's superlative coachwork. (Est: \$950,000 - \$1,100,000)

1962 Chaparral 1 Sports Racing Car

Recently restored Ex-Chuck Jones/Team Meridian Chaparral driven by Skip Hudson in 1963. Chassis were the last of the classic front-engined sports racers and were successfully raced by top drivers including Jim Hall, Hap Sharp, Harry Heuer, and Roger Ward. Most importantly — this is chassis #004 the only Chaparral of five built currently available for sale. Offered without reserve. (Est: \$650,000 - \$950,000)

1969 Ferrari 512S Spyder Sports Racing Car

Chassis #1006 began its illust-

rious racing career at Sebring in March of 1970 for Luigi Chinetti's North American Race Team. Its 550 bhp, 4,496 cc double overhead camshaft V12 made this the fastest car Ferrari had ever built to date, capable of 235 mph plus. The car took a second place victory at Daytona in 1971 and participated in 24 hours of Le Mans, 12 hours of Sebring, 1,000 kms of Buenos Aires and Donnybrook. 1006 found a succession of caring owners shortly after its competitive career ended. It remains the single most original and unmolested 512S ever completed and certainly one of the finest examples out of four original "S" configuration cars remaining in the world. (Estimate available on request)

RM Auctions' Monterey Sports and Classic Car Auction will be held in the Monterey Conference Center adjacent to the elegant Portola Plaza Hotel at Fisherman's Wharf in Monterey. Activities are held on Aug. 18, 19 and 20 with auction previews daily on Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. The auction sale times are Friday, Aug. 19, and Saturday, Aug. 20, evenings from 5:30 to 11 p.m.

Celebrating more than 25 years in the collector car industry, RM Auctions, Inc. and its sister companies are responsible for acquiring, restoring and selling of the world's rarest and most expensive vintage automobiles including Best of Show winning cars at the prestigious Meadow Brook and Pebble Beach Concours. For the latest information on this event and RM Auctions, Inc., please call toll-free 800-211-4371, or visit the corporate Web site at www.rmauctions.com.

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Auto

FROM PAGE D2

go about this? — Walter

Dear Walter: Try an Internet site, such as eBay. Also, there are many old car and hobby magazines that have a classified section to advertise.

Dear Doctor: I own a 2004 Mazda MPV with only 1,400 miles. My wife does not drive much and when she does, the tires are very short. I went to the dealer and asked about synthetic oil. They said if I use anything other than the 5W20 conventional oil and something happened to the engine, the warranty would be void. Is this true? I thought synthetic oil was the best. — Abby

Dear Abby: This is the first I've heard of synthetic oil voiding a warranty. I would read the owner's manual for fluid recommendations and oil viscosity. Synthetic oil, on average, can increase gas mileage one mile per gallon.

Dear Doctor: I own a 1999 Ford E-350 purchased new with a

V8 engine. It now has 44,000 miles. At 38,000 miles, a spark plug came out of the cylinder head. I had it towed to the Ford dealer.

The dealer charged us for the repair because the spark plug is a maintenance item. This past May, the same spark plug blew out again. The dealer also replaced an ignition coil at my expense, as my Ford extended warranty did not cover this repair. The spark plugs were never changed and I feel I am getting ripped off. Have you ever heard of such a problem? — Scott

Dear Scott: You are not alone with spark plugs coming out of Ford cylinder heads. Go to an online chat room with others to discuss these problems. There are companies that sell a special tool and new spark plug thread insert. Contact the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. A sudden loss of power when traveling on the highway is a safety concern.

Send questions to: *Auto Doctor*, 3 Court Circle, Lakeville, MA 02347.

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Fuel saver: The new 2006 Dodge Ram 1500 is the first pickup truck and latest Chrysler Group vehicle to feature standard Multi-Displacement System with the 5.7-liter HEMI. Without compromising its 345 horsepower, the new HEMI V8 engine seamlessly alternates between four-cylinder mode and the V8 mode when more power is in demand. It is estimated that MDS will save as

much as 20 percent in fuel economy, and when used on seven Chrysler vehicles by the end of the year, is expected to save up to 60 million gallons of fuel annually.

Buyers market: July auto sales could be the highest the country has seen since October 2001, when U.S. automakers began offering zero-percent financing. Merrill Lynch analyst John Casesa said, "Even foreign automakers that don't have

the employee discounts are benefiting," he said. "Detroit's aggressive incentives and advertising appears to be creating showroom traffic for all brands." Analysts warned there could be payback for the summertime boom. (Source: Associated Press)

Used bargains: The used-car market has been hit by the three Detroit-based carmakers' success in boosting sales of new vehicles

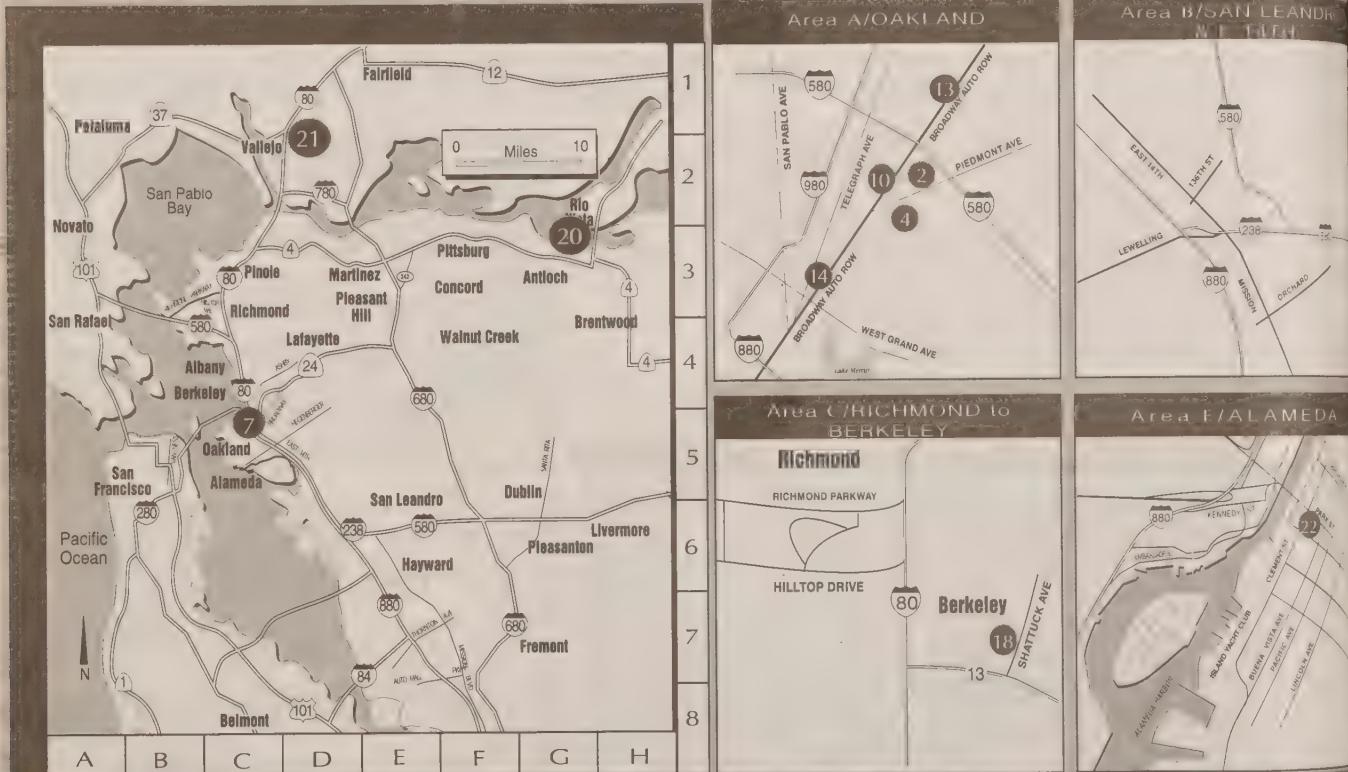
by extending employee discounts to all buyers. Paul Taylor, economist at the National Automobile Dealers Association, estimates that used-car prices drop by an average of 6 percent this month, reflecting a decreased supply of vehicles. "There are tremendous bargains for customers looking for basic transportation," Taylor said. (Source: NADA)



2006 DODGE RAM 1500.

cars.com

Hills Auto Directory

For Door-to-Door Directions visit www.ContraCostaTimes.com

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Lawn & patio sets
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shirts, towels, shirts,
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winning Must Go!!

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Sat & Sun 10-4pm
Move Household
Items

2022 NORTHWOOD
SAT 8:30-11AM
Furniture, Mattress,
Patio, Laundry, etc.
Adult & Child
amps & MORE!!

2065 SOUTHWOOD DR
SATURDAY 8-5
Baby stuff, crib,
changing table, high
chair, etc. & more

740 HAIGHT AVE
SAT & SUN 8AM-4PM
Round trip 100's of
vintages, 50's &
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2000's & more
adults & stuff

1104 MOVING SALE!!
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ANTICO, A great place to learn, a place to play, a place to grow. 6:30pm-8pm. Close to Drag. on Br. Rd. 925-798-5242

CATI young, sm. fem. M/F, 10 mos. 925-449-2076

CHIHUAHUA mix. Blk. fem. Hwy. 4, Oakley. 925-679-9975

DOG Blk. lab, purebred, you know. K-9 K-9 Cerro. 510-499-3759

DOG Fem. blk/wht/brdr. collie mix? Antioch 925-582-5212

DOUG Blk. dog, 8-3, near Tregallan, El Cerrito, Antioch. 925-565-1615

FOUND Small dog. Mixed breed Tan Les. Laredo, 925-582-8281

FOUNDED Young tabby male. Black stripes, w/ beige, tiger face. Meows like a cat. Veryatty. Shy loving. Alameda. 510-488-0877

KEYS for Nissan found Kitter Pass nr. Clayton Rd. 925-672-7418

Lost

BOSTON Terrier, male, 8/7, Willow Pass & Lampson Rd. Wally....FOUND

CAT Concord. Treat nr. 7/16 Queensland Heeler. Blk. & tan. male, blk/brown, wht chest, paws, nose w/ blk. ears. 925-254-8858

CAT, sm. all gray fem. 7/6. Treat Blvd. 925-687-8514

COCKATIES Lost 7/4, Liver, white, w/ yellow off concannon. \$50. REWARD! 925-447-8267

DOG 7/16 Queensland Heeler. Blk. & tan. male, blk/brown, wht chest, paws, nose w/ blk. ears. 925-254-8858

DOG Bichon wht. fem. 9lbs. "Daisy" pure col. #ar 254-39161

DOG, Tricolor. M/F, male. Blk. & tan. 925-798-9532

DOG, Pitbull. Mix. Sm. Brindle. Fem. Very 11 lb. 10 oz. Last seen on I-680 N. btwn. Willow Pass & Burnt Ranch Rd. Concord. 925-228-4981

DOG Tan sheep, m/l, 11 yr. male. "Odie", shy. Oakland. 510-530-4965

LOST Dog. Female, 8 yrs. 9/1. W. 18th & 1st. MED issues. Caroos@Pacoco. 760-705-3535

PARAKEET, grey, lost. 8/6. 12th & 1st. Reward. 925-221-1542

Reward \$1000. Sm. all. blk. Lab. Fem. In Pleas. ant. Hill. 925-671-2240

REWARD \$500! In Laf. Vizsla, Fem. Call to return to Four Seasons Pet Hospital. Reward Vets asked. Pis Call 925-253-7993

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Real Estate & Home

Advertising supplement to The Alameda Journal

Friday, September 14, 2001

Section B

Weekly Home Sales Maintain your focus on the East Bay real estate scene [B7]**Open Home Guide** See what's on sale in your neighborhood [B8]Now is the time to prepare
for the inevitable 'Big One'

Victorian Architecture at its finest

A Victorian or typical wood building that fails off its foundation can be feed. A building that burns to the ground can be saved. According to the ground, stated Ken Gubler, a well-respected Alameda general contractor and owner of Gubler Construction, specializing in 100-year-old homes.

The most common residential construction failure is unreinforced masonry. This includes brick, stone, block, pavers, tile, and concrete. Damage to brick or stone from an earthquake is avoidable. Paul B. Bledsoe, a licensed contractor of the city of Alameda, says a home inspection for inspection period.

Earthquakes happen in clusters. They will happen again in San Francisco, experienced an earthquake in 1908. By now, most trees that caused major damage to the quake had fallen down, and most reported chimes, connected to make the old-quality ring, broken and dead.

They will happen again in Alameda. San Francisco experienced an earthquake in 1908. By now, most trees that caused major damage to the quake had fallen down, and most reported chimes, connected to make the old-quality ring, broken and dead.

They will happen again in Alameda. San Francisco experienced an earthquake in 1908. By now, most trees that caused major damage to the quake had fallen down, and most reported chimes, connected to make the old-quality ring, broken and dead.

Both Gubler and Bledsoe were raised and went to school here. They have worked in numer-



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Friday, August 12, 2005

Navigating your school

By LEIF STRICKLAND

The Dallas Morning News

Ultimately, a student's success in the classroom is up to him or her. But educators and seasoned parents agree that behind every successful student, whether a kindergartner or 11th-grader, is an engaged and informed coach — a parent or other adult role model.

"Kids whose parents are involved in school are much more likely to do well," said Dallas middle school teacher Barbara Dorff, Texas' teacher of the year in 2001. "Parental involvement is critical in a child's success."

We asked teachers and parents to help put together a playbook for the effective academic coach. Here are some of the tips they offered:

GET INVOLVED

One of the best techniques, the experts say, is to lead by example and get involved at school.

"Join the parent association and attend the meetings. Volunteer in the lunch room. Go to parent-teacher night. Be as involved as you can," Dallas educational consultant Elissa Sommerfield said. "That way, you'll demonstrate to your children that you care about their school and you are interested and that they should be as involved as you are."

PRaise, PRaise, PRaise

Another tried-and-true technique is positive reinforcement.

"Praise goes a long way," says Jackie Schornick, a science instructor at Allen High School in Allen, Texas, who was named her district's 2002 secondary teacher of the year.

Conversely, criticism can be damaging if it's not constructive.

When a child doesn't meet expectations, "Don't scold them, don't criticize, and certainly don't compare siblings," Sommerfield said. "That's not constructive. See if you can help them encourage them to speak to their teachers, or maybe find them outside help."

Also, Schornick said, parents should set reasonable expectations for their children.

"Not every child is going to get an 'A' in everything," she said. "Give them the benefit of the doubt — they're working really, really hard for this 'B' and that's a good grade."

'How was school today?' Get the real answer

TALK TO YOUR CHILD

Obviously but often overlooked: The best source of information about your kid is your kid. Talk in a comfortable setting. Be curious but not confrontational.

TALK WITH THE TEACHER

Do this frequently. Go to the meet-and-greet when school starts. Exchange e-mail addresses and phone numbers, and don't be afraid to use them. Follow up, and be sure to attend all parent-teacher conferences. Get to know the teacher and the expectations he or she has for your child.

TALK TO OTHER PARENTS

Ask how their children are doing in school. How do they like the teacher? The principal? Stay in the loop about school news. Find out about your child's current teacher by talking to parents of older children.

TALK TO THE PRINCIPAL

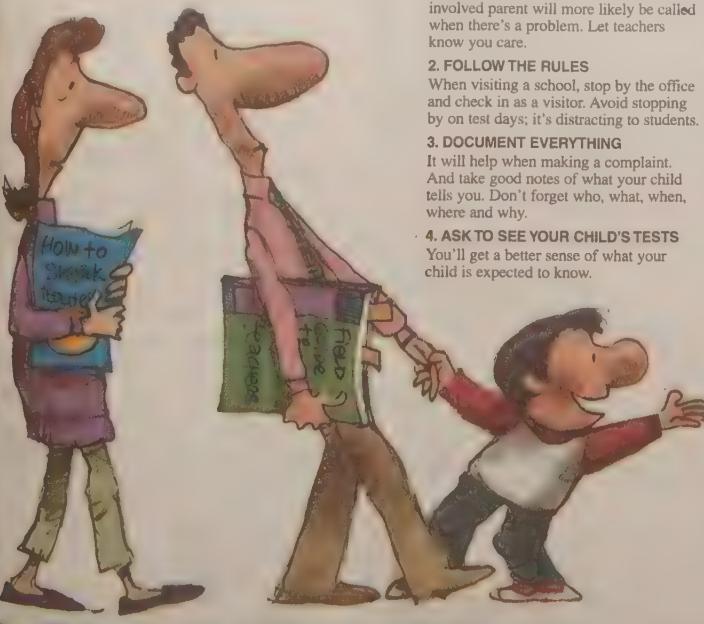
No one is more important to the success or failure of a school. How much time does he or she spend directly overseeing teachers? How much does he or she encourage parental participation?

GET TO KNOW THE SCHOOL SECRETARY

This is the person at the nerve center of the school, who knows what's really going on. And, chances are, you'll have to rely on the secretary or office manager more than once to set up a meeting with the principal or get a message to your child's teacher.

VOLUNTEER AT SCHOOL

Being on campus on a regular basis can break the ice with teachers and administrators. It also gives you a firsthand view of what's going on.



A parent's guide to making the most of this school year

It's common sense: Kids do better in school when their parents are involved. Grades are higher. Attitudes are better. Schools are happier places.

But involvement means more than making a sheet cake for the PTA bake sale. Engaged parents send kids to kindergarten ready to learn and closely monitor their performance in each grade. They require daily homework time. They volunteer in the classroom. They know their kids' teachers. They're always on the lookout for signs that their kids are overmatched or underchallenged by school.

Here, we offer advice to parents — from teachers, administrators, researchers and other parents — on how to take an active role in their kids' education.

TALK TO THE TEACHER

Many problems can be averted or quickly solved if parents establish a relationship with teachers early in the year, said Margaret O'Connor, a mother of four and a past PTA president.

Her recommendation: Make contact during the first couple weeks of school.

Follow up with an e-mail or short letter. And make time for parent-teacher conferences.

Then, if a problem arises,



the lines of communication will be open.

"Communication is vital," O'Connor said. "A problem that nobody talks about just festers."

Schornick said she tries to make contact with parents as soon as problems arise.

"Once students find out that their parents and I are e-mail buddies, things change pretty quickly," she said. "They know that if they're doing a great job, or if they're not, I'll let their parents know."

Tips for parent-teacher conferences

You should get more out of a parent-teacher conference than a review of grades and a peek at art projects. Experts offer the following list of things to ask a teacher:

EARLY IN THE SCHOOL YEAR ...

1. What specific skills and knowledge will your child be expected to master this year? Ask about key subject areas — math, science, history, English.

2. How are students informed about the academic standards they're expected to meet?

3. What kind of assignments has the teacher planned to help your child master what's expected?

4. How will your child be evaluated? What kind of information is used? How are grades determined in

your child's classroom?

5. What can you do to be involved in your child's progress? What can you do at home to complement what is happening in the classroom?

6. How does the teacher accommodate the differences in the way students learn? What if your child is a slow learner and falls behind, or is a fast learner and is bored?



Ten tips from involved parents

5. KNOW THE CHAIN OF COMMAND

Even the superintendent has bosses — the members of the school board. Feel free to address the board during public sessions at board meetings about any problems after you've gone up the chain. After that, try your state's education agency if you have to.

6. BE PERSISTENT

Don't be turned away by the first "no." Learn the grievance process in your school district.

7. KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

Know your rights to public information and to attend open meetings under state law.

8. CHECK THE DATA

Don't rely on hearsay. Request information from your district's administration office or the

state education department for information ranging from teachers' experience to dropout stats.

9. GET INVOLVED

Don't be kept out of campus-level planning and decision-making committees — parent representation is required by law. Campuses must hold at least one public meeting per year.

10. KNOW THE TEACHER

You may not be entitled to personal information, but you're entitled to know whether your child's teacher is certified.



ILLUSTRATIONS BY CHRIS WARE KRT

ASSIST, BUT DON'T IMPOSE

Sommerfield said one of the toughest problems for parents is knowing how much help is too much. And one of the toughest lessons is that failure can lead to success.

"Parents should assist with homework if their child requests it, but assisting doesn't mean doing the homework yourself," she said. "You have to allow your children to fail sometimes. Many studies have shown that you learn more from your failures than your successes."

Still, not all children are able to handle their homework alone, said Dorff, who teaches journalism and history.

"Some students are very capable of taking an assignment and doing it," she said. "But other students, particularly those with learning disabilities, need extra support. You have to draw the line at not doing the thinking for them ... but you certainly can be an excellent one-on-one tutor."

Whatever the method, a parent should watch closely to be sure they're helping and not frustrating the child, Dorff said.



HELP THEM GET ORGANIZED

At-home study habits can greatly influence a child's success at school. Parents should help their children develop a consistent study schedule and foster a good environment, Schornick said.

"Often when they think they're studying, they're really not because there are so many distractions," she said. "If a kid is struggling, I advise the parents to encourage their child to change venues or cut down on the distractions."

Sommerfield, who co-wrote a book on studying skills, says parents should help their children get in the habit of keeping track of assignments on detailed calendars.

"Scheduling yourself is one way to get into a routine, and good study skills are partly the result of habit," she said.

Double-wide 'mobile villas' fetching seven figures in California

BY MICHAEL MARTINEZ
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

MALIBU, Calif. — So wonderfully Californian, Marsha Weidman's home has it all — beside the beach, far from noisy traffic, with a Jacuzzi used to watch sunsets over the Pacific.

For this, she and her husband recently paid \$1.05 million.

For that, they got a trailer, built in 1971, without any land.

Plus, the family must pay "space rent," which at two Malibu parks dotted with seven-figure trailers ranges from \$800 to \$2,500 monthly.

The nation's frenzied housing boom has come to this: Even trailer parks, long the butt of jokes about tornado targets and redneck living, are enjoying fat greenback prices.

But, oh, what a mobile home it is, Weidman says.

"When people think of 'mobile home,' they think of 'trailer,'" said Weidman, a former attorney who is the mother of two teenagers. "Mobile homes aren't what they were. They're not the little 9-by-15s on wheels. These are homes."

Indeed, virtually all trailers in such developments are not mobile at all. Some are on permanent foundations; their nomad days are over.

Such units in the Florida Keys are seeing prices approaching a cool million, including one water-front trailer on Stock Island next to Key West that's on the market for \$799,000, said listing real estate agent Larry Salas, of Miami. That price includes land, however.

"It's crazy because these trailers, before, they would be like a bad neighborhood. There was a stigma being in a trailer park," Salas said. "But here it's gone through such a metamorphosis."

The seven-digit prices, touching only those trailers parked permanently beside the sea, have made for giddy moments with neighbors such as George Keossaian, whose wife and two children moved five years ago into the gated Point Dume Club mobile park where Weidman also lives.

The mobile home he bought for \$140,000 then will be worth \$950,000 once he completes an 800-foot addition, Keossaian says. A reappraisal this year assigned a \$750,000 value to his home, which has no ocean view.

"When I first saw this, I said, 'There's no way I'm living in a mobile home — trailer trash,'" said Keossaian, a contractor now rebuilding a nearby million-dollar mobile home overlooking famous Zuma Beach. "My wife said, 'We

live in a trailer! I said, 'If we build it to look like a house, will you stop calling it a trailer?' She doesn't call it a trailer anymore."

Like other savvy owners seeking millionaire buyers, Keossaian's abode has been remodeled to resemble a Craftsman bungalow, with stucco walls covering the trailer's steel chassis, hitch, brake lights and license plate holder.

Increasingly, the residences are refashioned into more than a towed home.

When Weidman bought her double-wide, it already had been remodeled to evoke a cottage, with airy interior rooms illuminated by skylights, comfy outdoor wooden decks and a front-yard rose garden.

It's in the Point Dume Club, a 297-unit mobile park built in 1970 that resembles a subdivision with winding streets, a clubhouse with a pool and tennis and basketball courts, and a guard in an entrance booth.

More recently, several trailers have been razed and rebuilt with stylish architecture and custom finishes, including Viking stoves, Sub-Zero refrigerators, Swarovski crystal lighting and travertine floors.

For example, developer Janet Levine of Maliblu Holdings paid \$790,000 for an old trailer and built a new structure, selling it for \$1.75 million this year in Point Dume Club.

She's doing two more reconstructions just down the drive, including one three-decades-old trailer with surfboards stacked outside that she bought recently for \$840,000 and will redevelop into a structure worth about \$1.8 million. Another she bought for \$800,000 will be listed for \$1.6 million once it's redeveloped, she said. She is planning to install or has already built replacements with the architecture of traditional Japanese, 1960s Palm Springs and modern minimalist styles.

"We call them mobile villas," Levine said.

Still, they're all officially trailers, with occupants of the older units like Keossaian even cutting a \$59 check yearly for state registration.

"If you were to ask long-time residents, they don't like it, they don't like the change," said Kirsten Rindick, a mobile-home owner in Malibu and interior designer who has seen her business prosper thanks to new, well-to-do neighbors. "What do I think? I think it's great."

Despite extravagant makeovers, a giveaway is often a floor and front doorway always 3 feet above ground. Another telltale is a less-wealthy neighbor with horizontal metal or

vinyl siding.

Despite the outrageous price tags, the domiciles are a bargain for their location, according to owners. A house similarly positioned in celebrity-choked Malibu — close to the surf with views of coastal mountains — would cost tens of millions of dollars, they say.

"If you look at the view in my yard, you'd understand," Weidman said.

Caressed by cool breezes on a small bluff, her home suffers no obstructed views — just water, sand and hillside flora including jade, pine and rosemary. "That was the key reason for why what I spent," she said.

David Carter, a real estate agent specializing in Malibu's mobile-home market the past 20 years, said the first million-dollar sale of a motor home in the city came two years ago.

"There used to be only one or two," said Carter. "We'll probably sell five or six in the million-dollar range this year. We've already sold three this year."

"We're just finding a lot of buyers who don't want to spend \$10 million for a similar view and location for a house, so they will buy these beach homes for a second home."

The million-plus prices also are posted in Malibu's Paradise Cove, a trailer park beside a surfers' beach where the 1970s TV show "The Rockford Files" situated a ragtag trailer for James Garner's private eye character.

Cove resident Maggie Bright has put her family's double-wide up for sale for \$875,000, and they plan to move to New Orleans, she said. Their coach sits six or seven trailers away from a bluff's rim with a commanding view of the coast.

She and her husband bought the 1,300-square-foot trailer for \$159,000 five years ago and spent \$45,000 remodeling the three-decades-old coach with high-end appliances, skylights and tile, Bright said.

"Malibu has really gone nuts, as has most of California," she said.

Securing a mortgage for such high-end mobile homes can be difficult, but Clay Dickens, vice president of Community West Bank in Goleta, Calif., has made a niche out of lending to mobile-home buyers, extending \$100 million in such loans the past seven years, he said.

"It's an unusual thing. There's no title to it. You're kind of lending somewhat — most banks don't like the verbiage — on blue



AMANDA WEIDMAN, 18, looks out of her parents' home which has a view of Zuma Beach and the Pacific Ocean. The mobile home was purchased for \$1 million, and the land space in the park rents separately.



WEIDMAN LOUNGES in front of her parents' home.

Flattering photos: Take steps to avoid presenting negative image

BY DOUG WORGUL
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — You're just back from your Colorado vacation and you eagerly download your digital photos and, well, you're horrified because you look terrible in every photo. You look like a frightened, bloated mannequin with a wedge.

It doesn't have to be that way. Here's some advice from experts on how to look happy and snappy

in future snapshots.

On the Web site www.miltonkeynes.com, professional photographer Di Fisher says that one trick is to stand or sit a bit sideways. Movie stars have perfected this technique. Rarely do you see Hollywood types facing a camera full-frontal.

Fisher says stand with your feet slightly apart, one foot in front of the other. Then shift your weight to your back foot. This will relax your

front leg. It will also prevent you from leaning toward the camera. Because objects closer to the camera look larger, you probably don't want to lean in too close.

Use posture. Keep your back

straight and tall. If you're sitting down, sit on the front edge of your chair. This will help keep your posture straight.

Bright colored or white clothing will make you look heavier, and pat-

terned clothes look busy and

See PHOTOS, Page 5

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Dorm lessons for back-to-college crowd dorms

BY CHARLYNE VARKONYI

SCHAUB

SOUTH FLORIDA SUN-SENTINEL

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — preparing for back to college and to be a no-brainer. All you had to do was buy a new bed, sheets, pillows and a plastic bucket to take to the community bathroom.

Not anymore, dude. This is huge. Everyone is coming for your back-to-dorm dorm — from Ty Pennington's TYU

to Campus Collection at Sears to Room Solutions at design

target. Even Kmart is trying to generate hipster hype with the 80 Collection, a brand kicked off in time for back to school.

These collections join the offerings from typical spots you shop for dorm decor such as Linens 'N Things; Bed, Bath & Beyond; and The Container Store.

So what's really happening?

We are seeing part of a broader trend that has to do with kids having more input into their home furnishings and caring more about them," Michelle Lamb, publisher of the Trend Curve newsletter, said in a telephone interview from her office in Eden Prairie, Minn.

Years ago, Lamb said, college students lived with whatever their parents suggested. Folks "made with what they had or what were given."

"People don't 'make do' anymore," she said. "College kids want used stuff. That's probably incorrect. If it's used, it's fine. And even that's not about doing, it's about making a statement."

"We've got a lot of choices to that statement. And retail is trying harder to entice you with our offerings."

Sears, there's the celeb

of chunky Ty Pennington, host

Extreme Makeover: Home Edi-

tion." Pennington's TYU Back to Campus Collection emphasizes casual living, comfort and color. Each of the three new looks — Horizon, Lagoon and Loft — includes bedding and mix-and-match accessories. Some capitalize on Pennington's favorite expressions such as pillows with "Love This" or "Kick It."

"My collections make it easy and fun to create the sweetest hangout and study space," he says in the Sears' ad featuring his photo. "Mix texture, colors and patterns. Your personality, your room."

Jon Gieselman, Kmart's vice president of advertising and public relations, agrees that individual style is an important ingredient in dorm design.

"Kids want to make a personal expression of style," he said. "They can do it with apparel. They can do it with accessories. They can do it with a backpack and notebooks. It translates into home decor. You can create a personal sense of style in how your dorm room looks. The days of bringing the hand-me-down comforter from home are gone. People want to differentiate themselves from the crowd."

Kmart, Sears' new sibling company, is appearing more edgy in its back-to-school launch of the 80 Collection, a new brand that will continue throughout the year with products geared to different seasons. The youth-driven collection, which evokes a fast-paced lifestyle, also includes bedding, decorative pillows, furniture, storage and lighting.

"We are injecting a great deal more of design into the product," Gieselman said. "Take a storage bin. Just because it has a utilitarian need doesn't mean it can't look great."

The pioneer in bringing good design to the masses is Target, and this year's Room Solutions doesn't disappoint. It includes exclusive products from California

Closets to help organize tight spaces, funky furniture such as foam lounge chairs, retro-style clocks and bright bedding and bath stuff in blue, green and orange stripes and waves. There are also decorative file boxes with matching folders and chrome Memorex radios.

Target spokeswoman Aimee Sands says not too many years ago, the bed was "it" for back to dorm.

"Now there is a much more coordinated look," she said. "There are wall organizers, bulletin boards, ottomans. It's about creating a unique, comfortable living space. This is the first chance a student has to create a space that shows who they are."

One of the best ways to show who you are is to put your personal stamp on your dorm room with color.

"Students want things that are fun, not staid," Bed, Bath & Beyond spokeswoman Noemi Villani said in a telephone interview. "You are going into a dorm with white walls and accessories are a great way to make it your own. And, if after a year you are sick of your pink shower tote, you can get one in another color."

Although getting the right bedding to express your personality is still important, Anne Evans of Linens 'N Things said over time the emphasis has moved to other parts of the room.

"We realize that kids do a lot of living in small spaces," she said. "We try to cater their multifaceted lifestyle of sleeping, socializing and studying in their room. The emphasis has moved dramatically to extra seating and fabulous chairs. Technology has driven the need for additional furnishings. We take into consideration that the kids may be using laptops and have things like the computer lap desk with a wrist rest. Kids want to be comfortable."

Comfortable and distinctly yours. Sweet, isn't it?

Dorms of distinction

You don't want your room to look played out. You want it to be hot. Here are the trends that our experts say will help you do your dorm.

Colors: It's all about bold and bright color, like this lounge mat (\$39.99) from TYU Collection at Sears. You'll find citrus hues like orange as well as yellow, hot pink, purple and blue. Other collections turn back the clock to the '70s with combos of orange, avocado green and brown.

Patterns: Wide stripes are big news. So are designs that take inspiration from your clothes, such as European soccer uniforms and shirts with patches. In the dorm, they translate into jersey sheets and bedspreads with patches.

Lamps: Desk lamps no longer rule alone. Target has a Wave Pendant Lamp in bright orange (\$9.99) reminiscent of a vintage George Nelson bubble lamp. And Bed, Bath & Beyond has Pendant Disc Chandeliers (\$9.99) in Blue, Orange Crush, Purple Haze, Bubble Gum Pink and Kermit (green).

Seating: Ottomans are big, small and in-between. Some have lift-off lids for extra storage. Other ottomans with folding legs allow you to stow them under the bed, such as these from Target (\$19.99 each). Other cool stuff includes the folding video rocker (\$89.99) at Linens 'N Things and the Spanex Egg Chair that stretches to fit your body (\$39.99) at Bed, Bath & Beyond.

Storage: Realizing you have a lot of stuff to stow, the storage options get better every year. Both Bed, Bath & Beyond and Linens 'N Things have bed risers (\$9.99 and \$14.99) to allow you to raise the dorm bed high enough to stow plastic containers underneath. They also have storage pieces that co-

ordinate perfectly with the bedding.

Top 12 must-haves for the college freshman

If this is your freshman year, you may not have a clue what you'll need for your dorm room. Here are 12 must-haves from Anne Evans of Linens 'N Things, and Noemi Villani of Bed, Bath & Beyond.

Mattress pad and feather bed: Dorm mattresses are notoriously uncomfortable. You'll need a mattress pad and something to cushion your body such as a waffle pad, foam mattress topper or feather bed.

Sheets: Check your dorm to see what size you'll need. Most have beds that require extra long sheets, 5 inches longer than a standard twin bed.

Pillows: One or two for sleeping and some throw pillows for cuddling.

Towels: You'll need at least two sets in case one is still wet and you need to take another shower.

Towel rack: Towels need someplace to dry. One of the best options is an over-the-door rack, which won't take up any floor space.

Area rug: The rug can cover a yucky floor and coordinate the rest of your room decor.

Surge protector: Don't forget this essential to protect your computer equipment against power surges.

Easy storage: Rooms are small so vertical storage is best. Look for a vertical bookcase or crates that can be stacked as bedside tables or arranged in different configurations.

Shower tote: Totes have come a long way from the plastic bucket days. They come in bright colors with sections so your shampoo and soap don't slip around. Look for one with holes so the water can drain out.

Task lighting: You'll need a desk lamp for reading and writing. Those with an adjustable gooseneck allow you to focus on your work.

Hamper: Forget the old laundry bags. This essential has come a long way, including pop up hamper with wheels and a carrying strap.

Ironing stuff: Yes, you may actually have to iron something. Buy a collapsible ironing board and an iron.

Just a click away

You no longer have to pack the stuff up in Mom and Dad's SUV and haul it off to school. These days you can order it on the Internet, coordinate with your roommate and have it delivered straight to the dorm or to a store near your school.

Polices differ with each company. For example, you can order on the Internet from Bed, Bath & Beyond and have it delivered to your dorm. Even though you order online, Linens 'N Things requires you to pick up the order at a store near your dorm. Since acceptance of deliveries varies by school, the stores suggest you check school policy before asking for dorm delivery.

Here are some Internet sites to help decorate your dorm crib:

Bed, Bath & Beyond: This is one of the best-organized sites with great info for back to dorm. It includes five shopping categories, back-to-school checklist and decorating ideas. A "pack and hold" feature allows you to shop online, place your order and have it shipped to your school on the date you pick. See www.bedbathandbeyond.com.

Container Store: Another well-organized Web site, this one has six basic categories for dorm decor, an organization expert you can talk to on the phone and a quiz to help you select your dorm style. See www.containerstore.com.

Kmart: The Dorm Essentials helps you come up with the right look, including a section on dorm must-haves. See www.kmart.com.

Linens 'N Things: Destination Dorm features six categories from crib comforts to extra-long twin

See DECOR, Page 5



SOUTH FLORIDA SUN-SENTINEL

EVERY MERCHANT SEEMS to be competing for your back-to-dorm-dollar as students return to college this fall. Shown are sample dorm rooms by Bed Bath & Beyond.

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When couples agree on a housekeeping system, everyone wins

BY EDWARD M. EVELD
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Multiple choice question: Who ran the vacuum yesterday, remembered to register the kids for August swim lessons and folded one last load of laundry before collapsing on the couch?

A. She did it all.

B. He did it all.

C. We both contributed.

More and more couples are working toward "C." They have discussed the many duties at home and determined who is responsible for what. They have a system. It's specific to them. It works, more or less.

For most marriages, having such a plan is a big deal. Like money disagreements, friction over household chores can cause serious damage.

"The benefits to couples who figure this out are enormous," said Joshua Coleman, psychologist and author.

Creating a system that works takes honesty and creativity. Couples are basing divisions of labor on a variety of factors: time, talent, interest, even pickiness. Some couples focus on what they really want - a clean house, say, or good meals - and let the rest slide. Those with the financial means hire out the chores they can't get to or agree on. Some couples make rigid schedules. Some go with the flow.

Maria and Stephen Steinacker share the cooking, the dishes, the lawn mowing.

Truth is, Maria wanted to mow the lawn, she said. "And I do the gardening because he really doesn't have an interest in it."

But one area they couldn't agree on was the cleaning. She wanted it done regularly. He had a looser plan.

"It just made so much stress," Stephen said.

"Really neither of us wanted to spend our weekend and evening time doing it," said Maria, who works a flexible 35-hour week. Stephen works with computers. "So it was pretty much a slam dunk. We have to get a cleaning person."

They share taking care of their daughters, ages 4 and 7. They plan meals together and try to limit grocery shopping to once a week.

Stephen had a cautionary comment: "If you think things are working out pretty well, you're probably not doing enough."

Research backs him up. Men may think they're pitching in, and compared with their fathers, the stats are much improved. But in dual-income families, men still do only about a third of the shopping and 15 percent of the laundry. And a survey by BabyCenter, a Web

site for parents, showed that more than 60 percent of couples with children argue about housecleaning.

"At the end of the week, women typically have done more than men," said Coleman, who titled his new book "The Lazy Husband: How to Get Men to Do More Parenting and Housework."

Experts mention the usual reasons for the continued inequities. Men still feel less invested in the home than women do. Their housekeeping standards are lower. And society blames women if the house looks crummy and the children aren't well turned-out.

But men are trying harder, and they should, Coleman said. Fairness is one reason, but studies show others.

Women who do a disproportionate share of the housework are at greater risk of depression and more often fantasize about divorce, he said. Children have better relationships with their fathers and even with other children if they come from homes where the men are actively involved in child care and do housework. And when men do more housework, their spouses are more interested in sex.

The best time to work a system, Coleman said, is when the couple feels compassionate and close, not when there's anger and resentment afoot.

Marilyn Hutchinson, a psychologist who has counseled couples in the midst of chore wars, said partners should feel free to alter their system.

A couple she worked with recently evenly divided the chores, but the wife wasn't satisfied with her husband's idea of clean. Now they trade duties once a month.

"That way she can do a deep clean in his areas," she said.

Hutchinson has a few suggestions for couples in negotiation:

Don't be quick to accuse your spouse of laziness. Some people really do have more energy than others, a fact that must be taken into account when making a plan.

Decide whether to make a Plan B in case one person is exceptionally busy at work or gets sick.

Tell your spouse when you think he or she isn't keeping up, but don't do it in anger. Try "I noticed that..." rather than "You never..."

Agree on whether you're shooting for "good enough" or "excellent."

"Do you want to spend Saturday night at the movies or going from good enough to excellent in housecleaning?" Hutchinson said.

Make sure the disagreement is really about chores and not a fight about something else in the marriage. Some couples may need counseling to figure this one out.



CHORE WARS — will the galactic battle ever end?

Larry Ro-Trock, a psychologist, said couples should ask themselves a question: If the tension and resentment over housework went away, could you identify the next big concern in the marriage?

Ro-Trock said couples should talk about how housework got done when they were young. Men, especially, may need some education if their mothers did it all, he said.

While men are more likely to help with cooking and cleaning up after a meal, housework and laundry are the tasks they find least appealing, sociologists say. So it helps if the male part of the couple is actually a clean freak.

Jennifer Collier calls her husband "meticulous," and for this couple, clearing clutter is the No. 1 priority. Jarvis is a pastor. Jennifer is a high school music teacher. They entertain at home and don't mind church friends dropping by. Both want the house to be presentable at all times, and it is.

"My husband pushes that, and I'm glad he does," Jennifer said.

"People come in and say, 'It looks like nobody lives here!'"

How do they do it?

They stick to their anti-clutter

agreement, for one thing. Clothes worn to work don't get thrown over a chair. They go to the laundry basket or get set aside in the closet for the dry cleaners. Shoes are put away. If an item goes

astray during the day, it's back in its place by evening.

Jarvis agrees he's thorough.

"There's no law that says the trash can has to be full before you empty it," he said.

Actually, Jennifer said, "he hates

for trash to be in the trash can."

Jarvis said he understood

work can seem like drudgery

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that.

"Sometimes I organize

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Decor

FROM PAGE 3
sheets. It also has an essentials checklist that you can print out or e-mail to your roommate. See www.decor.com.

Sears: TVU Back to Campus is one of the simpler links that leads right to the products without any of the consumer-oriented frills of some of the other sites. See www.sears.com.

Target: You have to scroll down the Web site to find "Back to College" Your crash course in dorm decorating. It provides four shopping categories and a way to find your home state or college with suggestions for decorating in school colors. This may hard to believe, but you can order a replica of the University of Miami stadium and a team strainer emblazoned with PSU. See www.target.com.

Paperback shows Feng Shui used in the dorm way

"Dorm Room Feng Shui" (Storey Publishing, \$10.95), by Katherine Olakken, is a simple paperback that promises to change your life. Girl friend, who doesn't want a little help? Feng shui is the Chinese art of placing objects that some folks believe will do everything from improve your love life to help you make better grades. The explanations can get pretty complicated (and boring), but this time.

I was ready to dismiss this as still another way to make bucks out of the Asian design concept that has gained popularity in the United States over the past decade. But this charming 144-page paperback is fun and easy to browse, unlike some of the other feng shui books that read like a text in a class you would never anything to drop.

Olakken knows how to talk the talk and she does it like she's your best buddy giving advice.

"Come on," she writes, "don't even try to fake me out with, 'There's so little room in my dorm and that's why there's so much crap under my bed.' I know you have always had crap under your bed. Let's be honest. The fact is, there shouldn't be anything under your bed, including dust bunnies. So if you're going to put stuff under the bed, make sure it's not dirty laundry ... Use the space for storage bins that are neatly placed and out often enough that they don't get covered with so much dust that they look like they've been years in a crypt."

The book is far more than clever, down-to-earth writing. It's practical, too. There are plenty of illustrations, in and out lists, dos and don'ts as well as before and afters.

Now entering her senior year at Wooster College in Wooster, Ohio, Olakken has been there. The first big challenge she says she faced in college wasn't zoology or economics but how to make a 10-by-15-foot box feel like home. She sought the help of her aunt, writer Elizabeth MacClellish, and feng shui expert Margaret M. Donahue to transform her dorm room into what she calls a "super-cool crib." When her college mates loved the look, the three decided to collaborate on this book.

Here is a sample of some of the book's suggestions:

Your door: Make a statement. The dorm police probably won't allow you to paint it purple or drill holes, but you can tape up your fave poster.

Your windows: They represent your outlook on life. So clean the windows, move the boxes and let the sun shine into your room.

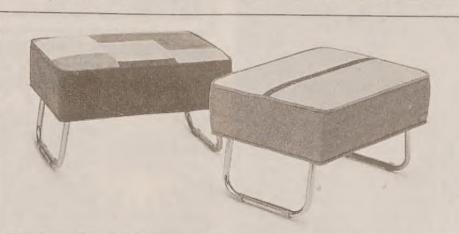
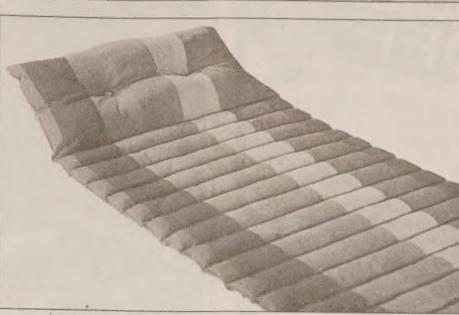
Your bed: Position is everything. Place the headboard against a solid wall and make sure you can easily see the door. You don't want it to be directly in front of the door. If there is no other choice, add a bookcase or other piece of furniture at the foot of the bed to shield you.

Your desk: Again, you don't want to be surprised by someone going up behind you, so the best position is with a view of the door and a solid wall behind you. Can't move the desk? Place a small mirror on the desk so you can see the door. And keep the desk clutter-free.

Your computer: Don't keep it running. If you can't put it behind closed doors, cover it with an attractive cloth when it's not in use. Electric appliances create EMFs or electromagnetic fields, which some experts believe can lead to cancer.

What do you have to lose? Chill and read the book. If it works, have a tall, skim double latte to celebrate.

Feng shui is the Chinese art of placing objects that some folks believe will do everything from improve your love life to help you make better grades.



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Chores

FROM PAGE 2

on vacuuming to get the job done."

On the theory that they can do a lot but they can't do everything, the Colliers hire someone to do yard work.

Linda Word and Don Mackey came to the same conclusion — some things you just can't get to — but for them the issue was cooking. When they got married 14 years ago, they simply chuck the idea of making their own meals and ate at restaurants.

Eating out was fun for Don's two sons from a previous marriage when they visited on weekends. But Linda showed the boys how to make bacon and eggs.

When they were older and started dating, she told them, girls would be impressed they knew something about the kitchen. This

was not just a ruse, of course.

Linda herself was impressed by a boyfriend in college who cooked her dinner and set the table, complete with a rose in a vase.

"They were like, 'Really?'" she said. "From then on, they cooked breakfast on weekends."

The couple have since altered their meal plan. They still don't cook, but they get their meals for the day delivered to their home every morning from a service called Success Meals. They still make occasional trips to the grocery store for essentials, Linda said. They split those duties.

Linda does a bigger share of the housecleaning, and Don handles the laundry.

"I grew up doing laundry," said Don, who works from home for Sturgesword, the marketing company Linda and a friend started 10 years ago. "My mom worked full time. It wasn't a stretch for me."

Chores

FROM PAGE 4

flattering. Darker or muted solids are best.

In group shots, try to maneuver your way into the back row. Again, because objects closer to the camera look larger, those in the front row will appear heavier.

The Web site www.beautytipsonline.com suggests that if you know you're going to be part of a casual group photo, try to be the first person in position. That way you can choose the spot that's most flattering to you.

Finally, relax and try not to be too self-conscious. A little planning is good, but once you're in front of the camera, just be yourself and smile naturally. (Additional source: Stephanie Abramson in Real Simple magazine.)

Exaggerated pose: Do something to break up your pose. Put your hand on the shoulder of the person next to you. Put your hands in your pockets. Lean against a wall.

Double chin: Sit or stand up straight and tall. Push your chin out and up a bit. Turn your head slightly to one side. This may feel awkward, but it'll mitigate the double chin effect.

Closed eyes: Try to avoid taking photos at high noon. The glare from the sun makes it almost impossible not to squint.

Ask the photographer to count to three before snapping the picture. Keep your eyes closed for counts 1 and 2, and open them on count 3. This is pretty much fool proof.

Fake smile: Geez. Relax a little. It's only a picture. Try laughing. Make a funny face just before the photographer starts counting down. Keep the muscles in your face loose and turn your face slightly away from the camera.

Dazed and confused: Don't look directly into the camera lens. Look just to the left or right of the camera, perhaps at the photographer's hands, or look just slightly above the camera, maybe at the photographer's forehead. These days people taking informal snapshots are just as likely to hold their digital cameras out in front of them, as opposed to holding them up to their eyes to look through a viewfinder. So try looking at the photographer's chest.

Red-eye: This occurs when your irises dilate. The solution is to fix your eyes on a specific light source behind the camera, if possible. This will constrict your pupils and reduce red-eye.

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